

Creating Safe Play Areas on Farms Grant Program 2011

Healthy Kids,
Healthy Futures

Manitoba 
Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors

Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures All-Party Task Force

In June 2005, the all-party task force on Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures released its report on how Manitobans could help children and young people enjoy the best possible health now and into their adult lives. The task force was particularly interested in factors that affect children's health in the areas of nutrition, physical activity and injury prevention.

One of the recommendations from the Task Force report was that the provincial government promote farm safety education initiatives targeted at children and youth.

Creating Safe Play Areas on Farms

The farm functions uniquely as both a workplace and a home. For children, the entire farm may be seen as their place to explore and play. It takes time and guidance for them to recognize and understand the risks that surround them. It is not always possible to provide close supervision on the farm. One solution to this challenge is to provide a designated and well-designed **Safe Play Area**.

A Safe Play Area physically limits the child's exposure to hazards on the farm. Under adult supervision the child can safely experience the stimulation that play provides for growth within a safer environment.

Manitoba Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and Manitoba Labour and Immigration are working together on several farm safety and health activities. The **Safe Play Area** grant program is part of Manitoba's farm and safety campaign.

Safe Play Area Development Grants

Funding to cover up to the first \$500.00 is available to help farm owners build a **Safe Play Area** on their property. There will be up to 100 grants provided in 2011.

Conditions:

- The Safe Play Area is planned for a family farm.
- There is at least one family member living on the farm born after January 1, 2000.
- The Safe Play Area must feature an enclosure with a child resistant closing mechanism.
- The building design and construction must be consistent with the “Six Steps for Creating a Safe Play Area”, see **Appendix A**.
- The project is completed and receipts and project photos are submitted before December 31, 2011 for grant payment.

Application Process

1. Submit your completed application form to:

**Manitoba Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors
Farm Safe Play Areas Grants**

2136 – 300 Carlton Street

Winnipeg MB R3B 3M9

Fax: (204) 948-2366

Email: hskrypnyk@gov.mb.ca

2. Successful applicants will receive official approval.
3. Submit a copy of your receipts and photos of your completed Safe Play Area by December 31, 2011. Funding will then be sent out to successful applicants.

For a free copy of the “Creating Safety Play Areas of Farms” Resource Manual (English only):

- Download at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthyliving/farmsafety.html>
- Go to your local Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives Office
- Contact Manitoba Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors by phone (204) 788-6652; fax (204) 948-2366; or email hskrypnyk@gov.mb.ca.

Project Description

Please provide a brief overview of your project. Use the space below for your project description. Use the design worksheet provided to sketch your property. See **Appendix B** for a “Play Area Design Worksheet Sample”.

Project Description:

Dimensions:

Play Structures to be included (shaded space, swings, slide, sand box):

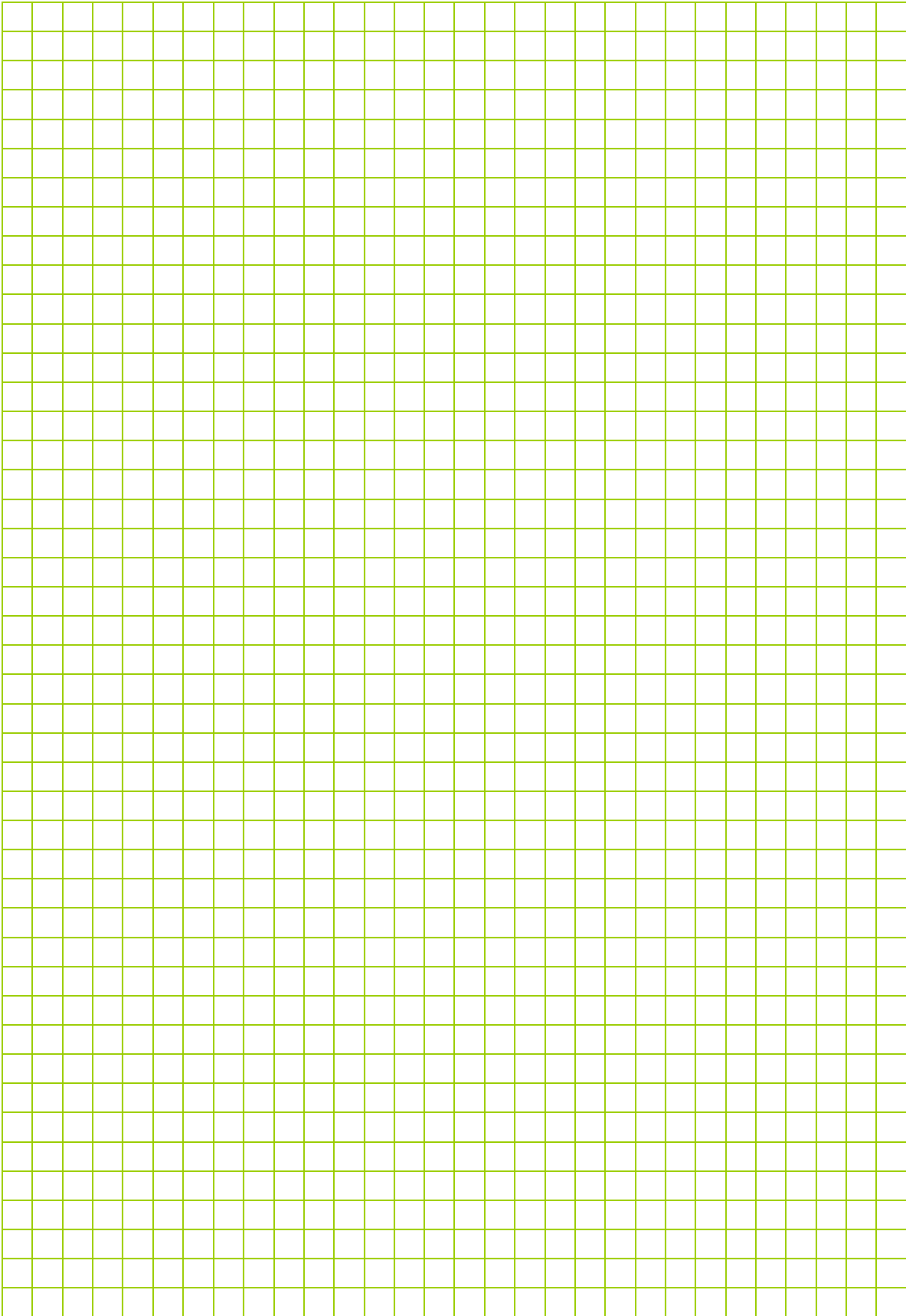
Proximity to worksite:

Surface Material (bark mulch wood chips, fine sand, fine pea gravel):

Participants:

Comments:

Design Worksheet:



Appendix A – Six Steps for Creating a Safe Play Area

Now it's time to put your knowledge to work. These steps pull it all together.

Step 1: *Locate* a site to be developed into a safe play area. The location should provide maximum play options with minimum exposure to agricultural hazards.

Step 2: *Sketch* out the ideal play area for that site, considering ways to promote fantasy, manipulative, swinging, climbing and riding activities. Plan for modifications in play activities as children grow.

Step 3: *Determine* materials needed. Make, buy or adapt for different play activities. Refer to playground equipment Web sites or other resources for specific guidance related to residential play areas.

Step 4: *Build* the play area including appropriate ground surfacing, borders, fences and gates. Older children can assist with this process if they are supervised.

Step 5: *Use* the play area. Explain safety rules and post signs if needed. Observe young children, older siblings and adult supervisors as they enjoy the area. Think about immediate modifications and future changes based on how the area gets used.

Step 6: *Maintain* and improve the safe play area. Develop a routine maintenance plan that includes keeping grass mowed, checking equipment for loose or broken parts, and reviewing safety rules for visitors. Let older children help with inspection and maintenance because this enhances their ownership and reinforces the importance of telling adults about possible hazards. Make improvements as needed and modifications as children outgrow play equipment and materials.

Effective adult supervision and the developmental capabilities of children who will use the play area are at the heart of all six steps. Consider supervisory sight angles and do not rely on the play area to be a babysitter. A play area should be challenging and fun. It should nurture a child's physical, emotional, social and intellectual growth.

Source: Creating Safe Play Areas on Farms

http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs/default.aspx?page=nfmc_nccrahs_safe_play_welcome

Appendix B – Play Area Design Worksheet Sample

