Dynamic Risk-Benefit Assessment Flowchart (Guidance)

The supervising adult's on-going consideration of:

- The organisation's play and risk management policy
- The unique behavioural characteristics of play
- The importance and benefits of play
- The children involved (their age, ability and competence)
- Prior experience of similar play opportunities
- Local context including weather conditions, lighting, recent behaviour patterns, the number and density of people etc.

Am I comfortable with the children's play behaviour?

YES → **Allow play to continue**

NO

Stop

Look,

Listen

&

Reflect

Do the children appear to be aware of and responding to the risks?
Consider:

- Are they being careful?
- Are they making allowances for one another?
- Have they made up their own safety rules?
- Have they removed or made safe any unnecessary hazards?
- Have they changed elements of the activity to make it safer?
- Is the level of risk reducing?

Are the risks proportional to the potential benefits (play value)?
Consider:

- Potential physical, emotional, environmental and social benefits
- Likelihood and severity of potential harm
- Other 'associated' environmental or social risks

Is it reasonable to allow the play to continue as it is?

YES

NO

React

Can you take steps to allow play to continue with changes?
Consider:

- Making children aware of the risks
- Removing unnecessary hazards
- Providing children with practical support
- Encouraging children to make new rules
- Asking another adult for help
- The time available to implement changes

YES

NO

Stop the activity!
Consider:

- Is it possible to offer alternative play opportunities that provide similar types of experience?

Reflect & Practice

What was the impact of your intervention?
Consider:

- What the children did after your intervention
- Discussing the incident with the children and/or other adults
- If an alternative intervention could have allowed play to continue

→ **Use experience from the incident to influence your future judgements**

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