# **Sustainable City**

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the playground equipment based on how children play

2014-01-20 Written by: <u>Eva Persson (Nature School in Lund)</u> Tweet Recommend {36 Comment 1

It is important to see how the kids play than what is stated in the standard. Photo: Titti Olsson

What is a risky and dangerous? What is safe? Peter Kells, an expert in the Canadian

lekutrustningsbranschen, believes that one must look at how the play equipment is used and not just on what the standard says. Children rarely use the playground equipment in the way that adults imagined. Therefore, one should manage risk in playgrounds this fact, he says, while one should assume that the child's desire to challenge themselves can not be done without risk.

Those who work with children's outdoor environments generally accepts the standards and rules and question them rarely. Rather, they want to be sure that they eliminate all possible risks and "do right" so they have back free if something happens. Too one-sided focus on avoiding any kind of risk, however, go out of children's play facilities, says Peter Kell.

### Hazardous and non-hazardous

Peter Kells reasoning involves everyone working in the field need to be aware of how they use words and learn to distinguish between "safe" and "dangerous" risks. Are there degrees of risk is acceptable? Where does so, the border? Peter Kells uses a scale with four levels:

Level 1: life-threatening danger or permanent disability. Tier 2: Risk of serious but non-debilitating injury. Level 3: may cause minor damage. **stage 4** small - no risk of damage.

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<u>Pehr Michael Sällström</u> Swedish Association of Architects

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increasing the pace of housing construction. Sustainable cities he has not shown as much interest for. In China, the opposite is true. Here goes housing apace, but that sustainable urban development is difficult to gain a foothold. Therefore, the Chinese government decided last spring that China will develop a new form ...

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We can actually create if not a fully fair city, then at least more fair - by involving more people, let more people take part and share their knowledge and information. Our forum is open to all. We give more chance to participate and speak up, discuss and have their say about their town. We can create a more equitable and sustainable city by giving people the space to come together and create debate in wider circles, by letting more ideas, alternative solutions and comprehensive visions of a green future.

With more involved, we have more chances to actually find better solutions to a sustainable city. Who knows - maybe just you or a complete stranger in Tranas, Huddinge or Haparanda world's best ideas for green architecture? Maybe creates the spark of something new in the exchange of ideas between a pupil, a designer and a biochemist? We may never know if we do not invite you to a broad dialogue. Meanwhile, we are also increasing pressure on policy makers to actually act, whether it is more likely to speak about the same thing and demanding change.

Involving more people in work for a sustainable city is thus exactly what we Architecture and design center will try to move. Big words? Maybe so - but we'll take one step at a time, in the right direction. Hope you'll join and help!

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