



Faster than a speeding bullet...

But not made of steel

Does your rural property have a safe play area?

Why do children need safe play areas on farms?

It only takes a simple distraction, a small lapse in supervision - and a child can be in serious danger on a farm. A securely fenced safe play area, can make the difference between life and death for a small child.

1. The hazards:

Many children are seriously or fatally injured in Australian farms each year. Major hazards include dams, farm vehicles and machinery, horses and farm motorcycles.

2. The risk:

Children on farms are at higher risk of injury due to their frequent exposure to major natural and farm workplace hazards.

Small children are mobile and ready to explore the farm, but this is not matched by an equal sense of danger. They can not yet identify or respond to unsafe situations.

Children do not always understand, apply, or remember rules, especially when distracted by play. These are normal features of child development.

3. The solutions:

A securely fenced safe play area provides an effective barrier to small children gaining access to farm hazards on their own.

Based on research into the effectiveness of different safety strategies, Farmsafe Australia recommends that:

A 'SAFE PLAY AREA', supported by family rules and supervision, is the most effective way to prevent serious injury and death to small children on rural properties.



Safe and interesting

A safe play area, such as a securely fenced house yard, is ideally:

- Located where children can be easily observed (eg. a verandah, kitchen).
- Completely surrounded by an effective fence with a suitable gate.
- Free of movable structures which can be stacked to climb over the fence.
- Include safe and interesting play activities such as sand pits, swings, cubby's etc.
- Exclude drowning hazards, vehicles, machinery, work sheds and chemicals.



Fence structure

The optimal standard for child resistant fencing as defined in AS 1926.1 - 2007 (swimming pool fencing). This may not always be possible, but factors to consider are:

- Height: At least 1.2m or higher is advised.
- Structure: Ground clearance < 100 mm; horizontal support rails < 10mm wide or on outer side to prevent foot-holdings.
- Materials: Solid panel or vertical rails with clear space <100mm are preferable; however, chain mesh or wire netting can be made secure by adding height, smaller gauge.
- Gates: Self-closing gates and child resistant latches out of reach of children.



Safe Play Area Resources

For further information on child safety and a detailed information pack on establishing Safe Play Areas on Farms is available from Farmsafe Australia.

Phone, post, email or fax back your details below & we will send you a free resource pack.

Child Safety on Farms Program

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Please forward me a free copy of the Safe Play Areas on Farms Resource Kit

Name _____

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