

Inflatables Risk Assessment (Bouncy Castles / Obstacle Courses / Assault Courses)



Applies to: Bouncy castles, inflatable slides, obstacle courses, interactive inflatables

Age Range: 3–13 years (age separation required)

This document will be reviewed on the following schedule: Before each holiday camp period, when introducing new activities, after any serious incident, annually (minimum) and when introducing new activities.

Please note that this document when will followed when using Eden Academy Trust provided inflatables, when using externally provided inflatables the providers risk assessment will be followed alongside JM Sports Coaching document.

General Inflatable Hazards			
Hazard	Who at Risk	Risk Level	Control Measures
Falls from height (slides)	Children	High	Age separation; maximum user numbers enforced; staff positioned at entrance & exit
Collisions between users	Children	High	Strict capacity limits; similar age/size grouping; no rough play rule
Overcrowding	Children	High	Clear signage showing max numbers; staff controlling entry
Flipping/instability	Children	High	Professional setup; secured with anchor points; wind limits adhered to
Entrapment (netting/sides)	Children	Medium	Constant supervision; immediate stop if unsafe behaviour observed
Children climbing walls	Children	High	Clear rules; constant supervision
Mixed ages/sizes	Children	High	Separate sessions by age group (3–5, 6–8, 9–13)
Trips entering/exiting	Children	Medium	Soft mats at entrance/exit; staff assisting younger children

Weather & Environmental Risks (Outdoor Use)		
Hazard	Risk Level	Control Measures
High winds	High	Follow manufacturer wind limits (usually max 24mph); wind meter onsite; deflate if unsafe
Rain (slippery surface)	High	Stop use during rain; wipe down before resuming
Extreme heat	Medium	Check surface temperature; rotate usage; hydration breaks
Electrical hazard (blower)	High	PAT tested equipment; cables covered; RCD protection used

Equipment & Setup Controls	Supervision Requirements
<p>Supplier must provide: Valid public liability insurance, Annual safety test certificate (e.g. PIPA tag if UK), Operating instructions, Risk assessment.</p> <p>Setup must include: Secured anchoring (stakes or ballast), Safety mats, Blower positioned safely, Generator fenced if used</p> <p>Daily checks: Seams intact, no tears, blower functioning correctly, anchors secure, surrounding area clear.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum 1 dedicated inflatable supervisor at all times - Supervisor not distracted by other duties - Clear safety briefing before use - No shoes or sharp objects - No food, drink, or jewellery - No somersaults or wrestling
Early Years (3–5 Years) Additional Controls	Emergency Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Separate inflatable session - Lower capacity limit - Direct staff support at entry/exit - Simpler safety instructions - Shorter session times (5–10 mins rotations) 	<p>If injury occurs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stop inflatable immediately 2. Remove other children safely 3. First aid administered 4. Record in accident book 5. Inform parent/carer 6. Review control measures <p>If structural issue: Evacuate immediately, switch off blower, remove from use, inform supplier</p>