

Amanda Spielman - Telegraph

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Children denied chance to develop 'resilience and grit' by too strict health and safety rules, warns Ofsted chief - from The Telegraph -

Ms Spielman, who took over as chief inspector in March, said children must stop being forced to wear hi-vis jackets on school trips "like troupes of mini-construction workers minus the hard hats".

The BBC - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-40841437>

Ms Spielman said making pupils wear high-vis vests on trips made them look like mini-builders minus the hard hats.

She said schools had developed an over-cautious culture that made it difficult for young people to cope with everyday events.

Ms Spielman said every minute enforcing a ban on conkers and yo-yos was a minute away from tackling a multitude of real dangers.

"I want Ofsted to make sure that schools are properly focused on pupil safety but that it doesn't come at the expense of opportunities to broaden and enrich young minds," she said.

"My message to schools is this - keeping children safe from harm should always be your overriding concern but in doing so make sure you distinguish between real and imagined risk.

"Trying to insulate your pupils from every bump, germ or bruise won't just drive you to distraction, it will short-change those pupils as well, limiting their opportunity to fully take advantage of the freedom of childhood and to explore the world around them."

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