



CRAIG GLOVER/The London Free Press

Three-year-old Lauren Wiebe and her dad, Tim, stand next to the bars where Wiebe got her knees caught, prompting a response from London firefighters to free her when she was trapped in the playground equipment at Naomi Almeida Park on Deveron Crescent yesterday. The girl was not injured. For more details, see the story on Page C5.

Firefighters free girl, 3

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A three-year-old struggled not to cry when her knees became wedged in a London playground platform yesterday and her father wasn't able to get her out.

Lauren Wiebe was playing with her five-year-old sister, Olivia, on the playground at Naomi Almeida Park on Deveron Crescent about 10 a.m. when she suddenly called for her father, who had just left the pair to sit on a bench, said her father, Tim Wiebe.

"I went over to see what was going on and she was there with her knees stuck in between these metal bars."

Lauren's knees were stuck so tightly between the bars she was forced to crouch, he said.

"I don't know how she got into that position, but I imagine she was standing up and then she kind of slid down, holding onto the rail while standing on her feet, but then she put her knees in between the bars," he said.

When Tim wasn't able to pry the bars apart himself, he asked a woman at the playground to watch his daughters while he headed for a nearby fire station, he said.

Tim could see Lauren "was a little upset" to see her father about to leave.

"She said, 'I won't cry, daddy', kind of looking at me and you could

see tears welling in her eyes, but she was really working hard to stay composed," he said.

Within minutes of speaking to firefighters at the nearby station, "they were right behind me (at the playground) checking out the situation," he said.

The firefighters used a jaw-like machine to rescue the girl, who covered her ears after they warned her it may be a little loud, he said.

"They stuck the jaw in and they separated the bars and like eight seconds later, she was out."

Firefighters gave the youngster, who wasn't injured, a stuffed toy animal. "She's a little trooper."

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