



# Playground Safety Check

## Playground Supervision Musts

Supervision is an active yet unobtrusive monitoring of the playground. Keep open lines of sight to monitor all of the play area.

Pay attention to hazardous situations. Positioning is important:

- Scan the area,
- random pattern
- limit interactions with others
- watch students

Provide support for students' play and respond to emergencies. Be visible using IDs or traffic vests to stand out.

Supervision prevents injuries. Know your blind spots so that you have extra eyes. Have ways to communicate by using radios, whistles, or messengers.

Good Supervision is anticipation of danger & problems, observing behavior and assessing the situation of the behavior.

To anticipate is to see probable harm in the playground area. Keep gates locked to prevent students from leaving play area.

Be aware of the entire playground area. Watch roadways close to play areas, make sure fencing is keeping animals out, keep an eye on parking lots, open fields, and off limit areas.

Students can only play on age appropriate equipment. Only students' ages two-five should be only on the ages two-five equipment. Older students should not be playing with younger students.

## Injury Prevention & Response

- Know how to call nurse.
- Know where first aid kit is.
- Learn first aid from the nurse.
- Investigate and document all injuries and take preventative measures to prevent future injuries.

## Playground

Unsafe behavior includes students leaving the playground, climbing trees and using off limit areas, i.e. behind a portable (anywhere that you cannot see the students).

Unsafe behavior also includes groups playing ball in areas of smaller students, piling on top of one another, pushing shoving, rough housing, tackling, running through play equipment and riding/pushing any toys in the playground equipment area where slips/trips could occur.

Unsafe equipment use includes standing on top of monkey or parallel bars, horizontal ladders, jumping to other equipment, **going up slides, jumping out of swings**, climbing outside of tube slides, playing tag on equipment, jumping off track rides half way, or hard pushing on swings, track rides or moving items.

Inspect swings sets monthly for wear on the chains, top support brackets, S-hooks, and seats. Keep seats clean of bird waste. Fall zones are 2 x the height from seat to pivot point. Many are to close to trees.

Be on alert for intruders. Make sure students are following rules and on appropriate size of equipment.

Please report insect infestations like ant hills or bee hives.

Clear all over grown weeds, grass, stickers, from equipment and seating areas.

The rule of five is:

(1) Safe play; (2) quiet & orderly; (3) respect others; (4) respect property; and (5) be responsible.

## Hazard Identification

Three types of hazards to look for are Material/Trash, Equipment/Facility issues, & Surfacing issues. Remove glass, bottles, paper, ropes, string, bags, animal feces, vegetation, & tree branches.

Conduct a pre-play look for hazards (noted above) in the morning before students play. Check for slip/trip hazards.

Do not allow students to play on broken equipment. Read the CPSC guidelines

<http://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/122149/325.pdf>

Look for kinked, twisted, or broken chains, S-hook on swings, missing bolts or parts, uncapped ends of pipes, sharp edges, cracked slides, exposed concrete, insects, & problems with surfacing material (sand, woodchips, or shredded rubber) should have nine (9) inches.

## Playground Discipline

Five responses:

1. Give short verbal reprimand and review of rule,
2. When disagreements occurs send students off to different play areas,
3. If child persists unsafe behavior have him/her talk with supervisor for short time,
4. As a last resort refer to time out area or principal.
5. Bullying requires immediate intervention.