



PLAYGROUND SAFETY CHECKLIST

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU USE THIS CHECKLIST TO COMPLETE PERIODIC SAFETY CHECKS OF THE OUTDOOR PLAY AREA TO REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES.

OTHER WAYS TO MAKE THE PLAYGROUND SAFE INCLUDE TALKING TO THE CHILDREN ABOUT THE RULES OF HOW TO USE THE EQUIPMENT; PROPER PLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT TO ALLOW TRAFFIC BETWEEN THE EQUIPMENT; POSITIONING THE STAFF FOR MAXIMUM SUPERVISION OF ALL CHILDREN, AND STAFF ATTENTIVENESS TO WHAT CHILDREN ARE DOING; SEPARATE PLAY AREAS FOR DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS OR HAVE VARIED SCHEDULES FOR OUTDOOR PLAY TIMES; AND LIMITING THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN DIFFERENT AREAS. KEEP IN MIND THAT NOT ALL PLAY EQUIPMENT IS MANUFACTURED WITH MULTIPLE CHILDREN IN MIND OR FOR MULTIPLE AGE GROUPS.

- CHECK THE EQUIPMENT FOR CRACKS, BENDING, WARPS, RUSTING, OR BREAKAGE OF ANY COMPONENT
- CHECK FOR TRIPPING HAZARDS, SUCH AS EXPOSED FOOTINGS, ROOTS, ROCKS, ETC.
- CHECK WOODEN SLIDES FOR SPLINTERING WOOD WHERE LEGS AND HANDS TOUCH
- CHECK FOR SLIPPING HAZARDS, SUCH AS SAND ON WALKWAYS OR PAVEMENT
- CHECK METAL SLIDES THAT THEY DO NOT BECOME TOO HOT WHEN THE SUN SHINES DOWN ON THEM
- CHECK TIRES FOR POOLING WATER, BEE HIVES
- CHECK FOR ANY CRACKED TOYS THAT MAY POSE A PINCHING HAZARD
- CHECK FOR BROKEN SUPPORTS/ANCHORS
- CHECK FOR LOOSE NUTS, BOLTS, AND CAPS OR PROTRUDING BOLTS WITH SHARP EDGES AND NO CAPS
- CHECK FOR LACK OF LUBRICATION ON MOVING PARTS.
- CHECK FOR SPLINTERING WOOD ON PLAY EQUIPMENT, PICNIC TABLES, AND WOODEN FENCES
- CHECK FOR POOR DRAINAGE AREAS
- CHECK FOR PROTRUDING NAILS ON PLAY EQUIPMENT OR FENCES
- CHECK FOR CHIPPING OR PEELING PAINT ON ALL TOYS, EQUIPMENT, AND BUILDINGS
- CHECK FOR RUSTY EQUIPMENT AND TOYS ACCESSIBLE TO CHILDREN
- CHECK FOR SHARP EDGES AND POINTS ON TOYS, FENCES, PLAY EQUIPMENT, ETC
- CHECK THE CHAINS ON SWINGS TO SEE THAT THEY ARE SECURELY ATTACHED
- MONITOR FENCE FOR THORNY PLANTS OR BUSHES THAT MAY BE ACCESSIBLE TO CHILDREN'S REACH
- CHECK FOR VANDALISM (BROKEN GLASS, TRASH) CHECK TO SEE THAT ALL GATES ON POOL FENCES ARE LATCHED
- MONITOR SAND AND PLAY AREA FOR ANIMAL FECES, POISONOUS PLANTS, MUSHROOMS
- CHECK TO SEE THAT ALL SELF LATCHING DEVICES ON GATES ARE FUNCTIONING PROPERLY
- CHECK THE ENERGY ABSORPTIVE MATERIAL UNDER AND AROUND THE PLAY EQUIPMENT, RAKE IF NECESSARY
- CHECK TO SEE THAT THERE ARE NO CONTAINERS OF STANDING WATER, WHICH COULD POSE A DROWNING HAZARD



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PLAYGROUND

SAFETY

Follow these five safety rules when taking your child to the playground:

- Choose the right playground equipment for your child's age and skills.
- If possible, choose playgrounds with surfaces made from wood chips or shredded rubber to lessen the risk of injury.
- Dress your child properly for the playground - no necklaces, scarves, purses or clothing that could get caught around their neck or pose a hazard.
- Use play equipment properly. Never climb up slides (use the ladder or stairs instead), and never jump from the swings or the top of the slide.
- Monkey bars cause half of all serious playground falls. Supervise your child closely while they play and assist them if they are still learning.

It's also a good idea to teach your child to touch equipment before climbing or playing on it, as the sun can quickly heat up surfaces. Always apply sunscreen and bring water to the playground to make sure your child stays hydrated.

As far as the popular advice that cautions parents against holding their child while riding down the slide. If your child isn't big enough to ride down the slide themselves, don't hold them on it. Rather, find more age-appropriate options for fun.



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