



Playground Safety Checklists

Suggested Playground Maintenance Checklist

Inspections should be conducted on a frequent, regular scheduled basis. Following are some of the danger points that should be checked on each tour:

- Visible cracks, bending, warping, rusting, or breakage of any component.
- Deformation of open hooks, shackles, rings, links, etc.
- Worn swing hangers and chains.
- Missing, damaged, or loose swing seats; heavy seats with sharp edges or corners.
- Broken supports/anchors.
- Footings exposed, cracked, loose in ground.
- Accessible sharp edges or points.
- Exposed ends of tubing that should be covered by plugs or caps.
- Protruding bolt ends that do not have smooth finished caps and covers.
- Loose bolts, nuts, etc.
- Splintered, cracked or otherwise deteriorated wood.
- Lack of lubrication on moving parts.
- Worn bearings.
- Broken or missing rails, steps, rungs, seats.
- Surfacing material worn or scattered (in landing pits, etc.).
- Hard surfaces, especially under swings, slides, etc.
- Chipped or peeling paint.
- Vandalism (broken glass, trash, etc.).
- Pinch or crush points (exposed mechanisms, junctures of moving components, e.g., axis of seesaw).
- Tripping hazards such as roots, rocks or other environmental obstacles.
- Poor drainage areas.

Suggested Playground Leader's Checklist

- Prepare written guidelines for playground operation, defining goals and procedures.
- Insist on first aid and accident training for playground leaders.
- Provide for constant supervision by establishing a written schedule.
- Instruct children and playground supervision on how to use equipment. (Playground equipment safety should be taught in the classroom.)
- Conduct daily cleaning and check for broken glass and other litter.
- Do not permit children to use wet or damaged equipment.
- Do not permit too many children on the same piece of equipment at the same time; suggest that children take turns, or direct their attention toward other equipment or activities.
- Constantly observe play patterns to note possible hazards and suggest appropriate equipment or usage changes.
- Make periodic checkups, and request that worn or damaged pieces of equipment be replaced.
- Prepare written accident reports with special attention to surface conditions, type and extent of injury, age and sex of child, how the accident occurred, and weather conditions.

Close supervision of children as they play and intensive classroom and home instruction about safe behavior on the playground equipment make an important contribution to playground safety. Through the attention and care of parents, schools, and community organizations, the number and severity of playground injuries can be further reduced.



PLAYGROUND SAFETY

Train Children to Play Safely

Because many playground injuries happen when youngsters use the equipment inappropriately, training in children in playground safety is essential.

Parents are, of course, the front-line instructors, but teachers and playground supervisors are also critical to this effort. It is helpful when teachers include a safe play unit in the fall curriculum.

Here are the basics of safe play habits:

Swings - Sit in the center of the seat, never stand or kneel. Hold on with both hands and stop the swing before getting off. Have only one person swing at a time. Never swing empty swings or twist the chains. Do not stand in front and in back of moving swings.

Slides - Use the steps. Never climb up the sliding surface. Slide down feet first, always sitting up, one child at a time. Be sure everyone is out of the way before sliding.

Seesaws - Hold on with both hands and sit forward, facing each other. Be sure each partner has both feet on the ground before getting off. Never stand or run on the board. Keep feet from underneath board as it goes down.

Climbing

Equipment - Climb only on apparatus made for climbing, and never use equipment when it is wet. Hold on tightly using a firm lock grip (fingers and thumbs together). Avoid having too many people on equipment at once and stay well behind person in front. Avoid bumping, kicking, or stepping on others.



MONTHLY PLAYGROUND SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Visible cracks, bending, warping, rusting or breakage of any component.
- Deformation of open hooks, shackles, rings, links, etc.
- Worn swing hangers and chains.
- Missing, damaged, or loose swing seats; or seats with sharp edges or corners.
- Broken supports/anchors.
- Footings exposed, cracked, loose in ground.
- Accessible sharp edges or points.
- Exposed ends of tubing that should be covered by plugs or caps.
- Protruding bold ends that do not have smooth finished caps and covers.
- Loose bolts, nuts, etc.
- Splintered, cracked or otherwise deteriorated wood.
- Lack of lubrication of moving parts.
- Worn bearings.
- Broken or missing rails, steps, seats.
- Surface material worn or scattered in landing pits, etc.
- Hard surfaces, especially under swings and slides, etc.
- Chipped or peeling paint.
- Vandalism (broken glass, trash).
- Pinch or crush points (exposed mechanisms, junctures of moving components).
- Tripping hazards such as root, rocks or other environmental objects.
- Poor drainage area.

DATE OF INSPECTION: _____

INSPECTED BY: _____

LIST ANY ADVERSE CONDITIONS AT TIME OF INSPECTION:
