

Playground Safety Tips

Playground Supervision

1. Supervising children on playgrounds is highly recommend.

Age Appropriate Playground Equipment

1. Little kids can play differently than big kids.
2. It is important to have a separate play area for children of different ages.
3. Choose the right play area based on your child's age.
4. Ensure that children use age-appropriate playground equipment.
5. Separate play areas should be available and identified through signage for children under 2, for children between the ages of 2 to 5, and for children between the ages 5 to 12.

Playground Surfacing

1. Avoid playgrounds with non-impact absorbing surfaces, such as asphalt, concrete, grass, dirt or gravel.
2. Ensure that there is safe, ADA accessible surfacing beneath and surrounding playground equipment
3. Recommended unitary surface materials include: poured in place, rubber tiles, and synthetic turf. Other loose fill surface materials can be used including sand, pea gravel, rubber mulch, engineered wood fiber, bark mulch and wood chips. However, they are difficult to keep in compliance with ASTM and CPSC standards and guidelines and they are not ADA accessible.
4. Recommended surfacing depths can be found in the Consumer Product Safety Commission Public Playground Safety Handbook (CPSC).

Playground Use Zones

1. In general, playground surfacing should extend unobstructed at least 6 feet in all directions around stationary playground equipment. Depending on the height of the equipment, surfacing may need to extend farther than 6 feet. More information about use zones for playground surfacing and other playground equipment can be found in the CPSC.

Playground Hazards

1. Check playgrounds where your children play. Look for hazards, such as rusted or broken equipment and dangerous surfaces.
2. If there are any hazards in a public playgrounds, report them immediately to the organization that is responsible for the playground (e.g., school, park), and do not

allow children to use the equipment that contains the hazard until the hazard has been removed.

3. Your child's clothing can also present potential hazards that can lead to injury. Remove necklaces, bike helmets, purses, canteens, scarves or clothing with drawstrings or straps that can get caught on equipment and pose a strangulation hazard.

Playground Maintenance and Inspections

1. Check that playgrounds are inspected regularly and maintained by qualified personnel.