

Playground Safety Checklist

	Ok?	*	Needs Attention!
1. Nearly 70 percent of injuries on a playground result from a fall. The surface in and around playground equipment is critical because a fall onto a shock absorbing surface is less likely to cause an injury than a fall onto a hard surface. Playground surface is at least 9 to 12 inches of loose shock-absorbing material? (recommended material includes wood chips, mulch, sand or pea gravel – avoid earth surfaces)	<input type="checkbox"/>	*	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. A routine maintenance schedule for the playground is created.	<input type="checkbox"/>	*	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. To reduce the risk of entrapment, there should be no openings on playground equipment that measure between 3.5 inches and 9 inches. Pay special attention to opening at the top of a slide, between platforms, and on climbers where the distance between rungs might be less than nine inches.	<input type="checkbox"/>	*	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Guardrails surround all elevated platforms and are at least 29 inches high for preschool-age children and 38 inches high for school-age children.	<input type="checkbox"/>	*	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Any exposed concrete footings, tree roots or rocks that could trip children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	*	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Any worn, rusted or missing parts, loose bolts, sharp edges or points, damaged “S” hooks (not fully squeezed closed) or protruding bolts that could trip or pinch someone?	<input type="checkbox"/>	*	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Are moving parts on the playground equipment properly lubricated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	*	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Any splintering wood or protruding nails on any benches or picnic tables?	<input type="checkbox"/>	*	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Is your playground separated from roadways with a fence, wall or other secure barrier so that children cannot leave and others cannot enter unnoticed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	*	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Is the fence gate latch properly functioning?	<input type="checkbox"/>	*	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Any areas of possible vandalism or any broken glass, trash, animal feces, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	*	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Are there any areas of deep divots or holes or areas that may develop poor drainage at footings, slides, exits, etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>	*	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Are swing seats securely attached and are any missing or damaged swing seats in need of replacement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	*	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Confirm that all equipment is securely anchored to the ground.	<input type="checkbox"/>	*	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Children under age of 5 should be accompanied by at least two adults at all times	<input type="checkbox"/>	*	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Playground equipment should be designed for different development age groups. For example, equipment designed for ages two to five should be kept separate from that designed for ages five to twelve.	<input type="checkbox"/>	*	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Parents and supervisors should be able to scan the playground quickly and find the children they are responsible for. There should not be any visual barriers between equipment and activity areas, so a clear line of sight is important.	<input type="checkbox"/>	*	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments or notes: _____

Completed by: _____ Date: _____