

PLAYGROUND SAFETY SELF INSPECTION CHECKLIST

This self-inspection checklist is recommended for periodic use.

Routine safety checks of outdoor play areas reduce the potential for accidents and injuries.

SCHOOL INFORMATION:		
School name:	Town/City:	SAU #:
School contact:	Title:	
Identify each area used by students (e.g., K-play area, back play area):	Age of equipment in each area:	

WHAT TO LOOK FOR (note additional comments below):	RESPONSE (Note any issues here)	CORRECTIVE ACTION (Note action to be taken, if any)	DATE CORRECTED
Check equipment for cracks, bending, warps, rust or breakage of any component			
Check for tripping hazards (e.g., exposed footings, roots, rocks)			
Check metal slides, platforms, steps, for proper shading to prevent burns			
Check for loose nuts, bolts and caps or protruding bolts with sharp edges and/or no caps			
Check play equipment, picnic tables, wood fencing for splintering wood			
Check the chains on swings to see that they are securely attached and rust free			
Monitor sand and play area for animal feces, poisonous plants, mushrooms			
Check tires for pooling water, beehives, etc.			
Check all equipment and buildings for chipping or peeling paint			
Monitor fence for thorny plants or bushes that may be accessible to children's reach			
Check the energy absorptive materials under/around equipment, rake if necessary. (6"-12" recommended)			
Check play area to ensure it is adequately protected from motor vehicle traffic			

Check for fall exposure. Platforms 30" or higher (20" for preschoolers) should have a secure guardrail/barrier			
Check equipment/guardrails for head entrapment. Openings should be less than 4" or greater than 9"			
Additional Comments:			

INSPECTION INFORMATION:	
Were all outdoor/play areas used by students inspected (Y/N)?	Date of inspection:
Inspector's name:	Inspector's position:
Inspector's signature:	Signature date:

This and other inspection records must be kept on file at the school site. Inspection records are to be maintained for no less than three years.

For more detailed safety and maintenance guidelines, see the "[Public Playground Safety Handbook](#)" from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.