



PREVENTING INJURIES TO CHILDREN ON PLAYGROUNDS

Ensure there is safe surfacing beneath and surrounding all playground equipment in order to minimize the risks of falling.

- Acceptable loose-fill surfacing materials include shredded rubber, hardwood fiber mulch or chips, and fine sand. Rubber mats, synthetic turf and other artificial materials are also safe surfaces and require less maintenance.
- Avoid asphalt, concrete, grass and soil surfaces under playground equipment. They are not good at preventing injuries.
- Surfacing should be at least 12 inches deep and extend at least 6 feet in all directions around stationary equipment. Depending on the height of the equipment, surfacing may need to extend farther than 6 feet.

Ensure that all playgrounds are inspected and maintained by qualified personnel.

- Daily, monthly and annual maintenance schedules should be followed.
- Maintain separate play areas for children under age 5.
- Ensure that schools and childcare centers have age-appropriate, well-maintained playground equipment and that trained supervisors are present at all times when children are on the playground.
- Report any playground safety hazards to the organization responsible for the site (e.g., school, park authority, city council).

Always supervise children using playground equipment. Stay where you can see and hear them.

- Prevent unsafe behaviors like pushing, shoving, crowding and inappropriate use of equipment.
- Ensure that children use age-appropriate playground equipment.
- Remove hood and neck drawstrings from all children's outerwear. Never allow children to wear helmets, necklaces, purses, scarves or clothing with drawstrings while on playgrounds.