

Playground Safety Checklist

- ✓ Check the environment for poisonous plants and remove them.
- ✓ Keep the area clear of glass, litter, and large, loose rocks.
- ✓ Make sure the equipment is age appropriate. Label your playground for the age children for which it is suited.
- ✓ Purchase equipment bearing the seal of the Independent Playground Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA), ASTM F 1847.
- ✓ Provide shaded play areas on the playground, using well-secured tents or canopies if there is no natural shade.
- ✓ Space play structures at least six (6) feet apart if 30" or less high; nine (9) feet apart if more than 30" high.
- ✓ Make sure required fall zones around playground equipment have a uniform required depth of resilient material (wood chips, mulch, sand, pea gravel). Rake frequently to keep soft and of uniform depth.
- ✓ Check play equipment for sharp edges or points, rough surfaces, loose or broken parts. Replace or repair damaged equipment. Avoid wood preservatives and use lead-free paint.
- ✓ Check for dangerous hardware, like open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends.
- ✓ Make sure open spaces, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs, that could trap children measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.
- ✓ Look for tripping hazards, like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps and rocks. Remove them or cover with resilient material to the required depth.
- ✓ Make sure elevated surfaces, like platforms and ramps, have guardrails to prevent falls.
- ✓ Supervise children closely at all times to prevent misuse of equipment. Close to 75% of all playground injuries are due to falls. The leading cause of playground related death is entanglement.

All playground equipment shall be securely anchored, unless portable or stationary by design, in good repair, maintained in good condition, and placed to ensure safe usage by children.

Maintenance shall include inspections (by a school employee) at least every other month of all supports above and below the ground, and all connectors and moving parts. Documentations of inspections shall be retained for one year. Florida Chapter 65C-22 with proposed change.