

OSS
ORGANIZATION OF
SELF-INSURED SCHOOLS

May 22, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR: OSS JPA Liaisons

SUBJECT: Playground Safety

The National Playground Safety Institute has updated the brochure entitled, "The Dirty Dozen," and copies are included for your M & O staff and principals. I have also enclosed copies of the monthly and annual playground equipment safety check lists that correspond to the information contained in the brochure.

If you need more of any of these items, please contact me. This information can also be found on the OSS website.



Henry Brock
Risk Manager

Organization of Self-Insured Schools (OSS)

MONTHLY

Playground Equipment Safety Check List for Custodians/M and O/Principals

Introduction: School playground equipment should be given a safety check monthly with some items checked annually. This form should be completed **monthly** and kept on file for five years. It is available on the OSS website: ossweb.org under "Risk Management."

District _____ Site _____ Playground Location _____

Check List Completed By _____ Title _____ Date _____

MONTHLY CHECK LIST

Item	Condition		Has a work request been submitted?		Notes
	Good	Needs Attention	Yes	No	
1. Protective Surfacing: Is there a protective surface, if wood chips, is it at least 12' deep, free from water/debris and not compacted?					
2. Protrusion and Entanglement Hazards: Is the equipment free of loose bolts and hardware configurations that form a hook or leave a gap that may catch clothing?					
3. Grip Hazards: Are there exposed concrete footings, abrupt changes in surface elevations, tree roots or rocks that can cause tripping?					
4. Lack of Maintenance: Are there any missing playground equipment components, is the hardware secure, does the wood, metal, or plastic show signs of fatigue or deterioration? All parts should be stable with no apparent signs of loosening. Check for vandalism and worn 'S' hooks.					
5. Pinch, Crush, Shearing and Sharp Edge Hazards: Does the play environment contain any sharp edges or points that may cut the skin?					
6. Moving Components: Are there any moving components that may crush a child's finger?					

Organization of Self-Insured Schools (OSS)

ANNUAL

Playground Equipment Safety Check List for Custodians/M and O/Principals

Introduction: School playground equipment should be given a safety check monthly with some items checked annually. This form should be completed annually and kept on file for five years. It is available on the OSS website: ossweb.org under "Risk Management."

District _____ Site _____ Playground Location _____

Check List Completed By _____ Title _____ Date _____

ANNUAL CHECK LIST

Item	Condition		Has a work request been submitted?		Notes
	Good	Needs Attention	Yes	No	
1. Signage: Does the entrance to the playground contain signage indicating the appropriate age level (2 - 5 years or 5 - 12 years), and a statement indicating "Adult Supervision is Required?" If not, a sign should be installed that reads: "This playground equipment is appropriate for ages _____ years. Adult supervision is required."					
2. Use Zones and Equipment Spacing: Is there a safe, clear area around stationary play equipment (usually 6') and are the use zones around swings equal to two times the height of the support structure?					
3. Entrapment of Openings: Are there any openings between 3' and 9' which may entrap a child's head? Pay special attention to openings at the top of the equipment and side openings between platforms and climbers. Partially bounded openings, such as seen on the top of a picket fence, may entrap a child's neck and should be avoided on play equipment.					

Item	Condition		Has a work request been submitted?		Notes
	Good	Needs Attention	Yes	No	
<p>4. Platform Guardrails: Do the elevated surfaces such as platforms, ramps, and bridge-ways, have guardrails or barriers that would prevent accidental falls? Preschool age children are more at risk from falls; therefore, equipment intended for this age group should have guardrails on elevated surfaces higher than 20' and protective barriers on platforms higher than 30'. Equipment intended for school-age children should have guardrails on elevated surfaces higher than 30' with barriers on platforms above 48'.</p>					
<p>5. Equipment Not Recommended for School Playgrounds: Accidents associated with the following types of equipment have resulted in the Consumer Product Safety Commission recommending that they not be used on public playgrounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heavy swings such as animal figure swings and multiple occupancy/glider type swings. - Free swinging ropes that may fray or form a loop. - Swinging exercise rings and trapeze bars are considered athletic equipment and not recommended for public playgrounds. Overhead hanging rings that have a short amount of chain (12') are allowed on public playground equipment. 					

The Dirty Dozen Brochure, prepared by the National Playground Safety Institute, may be used as a reference. It is on the OSS website.