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**Subject:** Playground Safety

**Source:** Performance Standard

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## **Policy**

- To prevent accidents from occurring on the playground or in the gymnasium, routine safety inspections and rules will be established and enforced at all sites.

## **Procedure**

### **Daily inspections of the playground will include but not be limited to a search of the following hazards:**

- A. Needles, glass and other sharp objects. Glass and other sharp materials can be disposed of in heard plastic or metal containers in the dumpster.
- B. Suspicious persons who do not have any legitimate reason for being in or around the playground area.
- C. Areas underneath play structures where ground cover (bark chips, sand, etc.) isn't adequate.
- D. Other dangers may include: poisonous or hazardous foliage, including sharp branches, thorns, poisonous mushrooms, bee or wasp nests and wood structures that have sharp splinters, bolts, nails, etc.
- E. Staff finding any type of noted hazards in the playground area must immediately notify their Center Coordinator.

### **Staff will routinely go over playground rules with children and consistently reinforce the rules.**

- A. Establishment of areas that are safe for running (i.e. not under play structures where a child might be jumped on).
- B. Appropriate play for slide: Sitting down facing frontward on slide is considered safe. Unsafe slide play would be: laying down head first, sitting down backwards, climbing up slide, jumping off top of slide, etc.
- C. Appropriate play for sand table. Inappropriate play would be: throwing, eating, putting down clothing, etc.
- D. Safety regarding found objects, (i.e. glass, syringes, trash, insects, etc.)
- E. Appropriate safety on tricycles:
  - i. Talk to the children about traffic safety (driver and pedestrian) when going over tricycle safety. Establish a specific direction of travel and safe location for children to ride.

### **Supervision of Children on the playground:**

- A. Staff will maintain a 1:4 teacher child ratio on the playground during outdoor play.
- B. Only Early Head Start staff will be considered the supervising adults when children are on the playground. Parents and volunteers can increase the ratio of adults to children; but they at no time replace the Early Head Start staff to child ratio, which is 1:4.
- C. Staff must be strategically located on the playground so that they are on opposite sides of the play structure and situated so that all of the children are within their view at all times.

- D. First Aid Kits must be taken **and worn by staff** when on the playground. First Aid Kits carry items that pose potential risks to children and are not to be placed on a bench or other area where they are accessible to children or others.
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