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## PLAYGROUND SAFETY

*Remember to always check playgrounds regularly to see that equipment and surfacing are in good condition.*



*Try to select a playground that has plenty of trees for shade, but make sure the trees are well away from the playground equipment.*



For more information please contact:

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## PLAYGROUND SAFETY



## CHECKLIST

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# Playground Safety

Playgrounds are a great place for your child to meet new friends and burn off energy! When choosing a playground it is important to consider the safety and maintenance of the equipment and the age appropriateness of the equipment.

The following may help you spot problems in a playground and help you avoid injury to your child.



## CHECKLIST

- Examine the equipment for gaps that could entrap head or limbs, or larger gaps that a child could fall through
- Look for signs of wear on the surface of the equipment. Rust, paint chips, and brittle material could be signs the equipment is not properly maintained.
- Pay attention to the type of material that is on the surface below the equipment. Injuries occur most often on playgrounds due to falls. There should be at least twelve (12) inches of Bark mulch, wood chips, fine sand, and fine gravel are good alternatives. Make sure the material is not a choking hazard for your child.
- Check that protective surfacing extends at least 6 feet in all directions from play equipment. For swings, be sure surfacing extends, in back and front, twice the height of the suspending bar.
- Make sure play equipment are more than thirty (30) inches high are spaced at least nine (9) feet apart.
- Check for dangerous hardware, like open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends.
- Check for sharp points or edges in equipment.
- Look out for tripping hazards, like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.
- Make sure elevated surfaces, like platforms and ramps, have guardrails to prevent falls.
- Teach your children playground safety including always sliding feet first in a sitting position and do not walk in the path of a swing -- front or back.
- Carefully supervise children on playgrounds to keep them safe.

