

PLAYGROUND SAFETY CHECKLIST

General		OK	NO	Slides		OK	NO
1.	Equipment stable. No deterioration in footings and joints.			1.	There is an 8-ft. obstruction-free zone in front of the exit area and a 6-ft zone on all sides		
2.	Equipment complete, no missing parts			2.	Slope support frames are straight, and son't have finger entrapment areas		
3.	No warping/bending of members			3.	Slide is of one-piece construction or connections are of lap-joint construction rather than butt-joint construction		
4.	Free from pinch or crush points			4.	There is clear line-of-sight from top to bottom of the slide		
5.	Free from sharp points and corners			5.	If slide is stainless steel, it is oriented to prevent the sun from heating the slide surface		
6.	Concrete footing appropriately buried			Swings			
Head/Finger Entrapment				1.	Swing crossbeam height is 8 ft or less		
1.	No openings between 3/8" to 1"			2.	Swings are hung at least 18 inches apart		
2.	No openings between 3" to 9"			3.	Swing seats are free of exposed metal parts or sharp hardware		
3.	No angles greater than 55 degrees			4.	"S" locks and other connectors are fully enclosed and secure		
Hardware				Spinning Equipment/Merry-Go-Round			
1.	Hardware complete, securely attached and without any deterioration			1.	Platform is level and stays level when unevenly loaded		
2.	Fasteners and connecting devices require tools to loosen/remove			2.	Distance between the bottom of the whirl and ground is less than 3 inches		

Ladders				3.	Equipment is free of open framework and gaps in the central support post		
1.	Slide ladders are fully enclosed and don't trap surfacing material			Sand Boxes			
2.	Ladders have slope of 50-75 degrees			1.	Sand is within the framework and free of foreign matter		
3.	Steps are at least 15" wide			2.	Box is in a quiet, shady place		
4.	Steps are evenly spaced and are between 9" and 11" apart			Maintenance			
5.	Stairways and ladders with steps have continuous handrails on both sides			1.	Maintenance is regularly scheduled and accomplished		
6.	Step finish is slip-resistant			2.	Maintenance personnel understand appropriate safety standards		
Play Areas				3.	Equipment is kept in safe working condition		
1.	Free of tripping and falling hazards such as protruding roots and rocks, or other obstacles such as drain pipes						
2.	The area has good drainage						
3.	There is an 8-foot fall zone around each piece of equipment, unless otherwise specified				<i>Source: Ferry, Ted S., Child Care Safety, Des Plaines, IL, American Society of Safety Engineers, 1993.</i>		