

Play Areas Checklist

Swings & Slides

Review Date: _____

Reviewed By: _____

No.	Worksite Inspection Item	Present	Needs Correction	Date Corrected
Swings				
1	Swing structures are located away from other equipment.			
2	Swings are not attached to a composite structure.			
3	A-frame support structures don't have horizontal bars.			
4	Swing seats are made of soft materials (no wood, metal or hard plastic).			
5	Maximum of two swings per bay (single axis), one swing per bay (multi-axis) and bucket seats are hung in separate bays.			
6	All S-hooks are pinched closed; no gap or space greater than 0.04 inches (about the thickness of a dime) remains.			
7	Swing chains are in good condition, free of rust and wear, and all nuts and bolts are tight.			
8	Appropriate type/amount of ground cover is present in use zones.			
9	The use zones for swings don't overlap with other equipment.			
10	The use zone for a single axis (typical belt) swing extends six feet on the sides. In the front and rear of the swings, the use zone is equal to twice the distance from the pivot point to the ground.			
11	There is at least 12 inches between the bottom of the seat and the protective surface (ground cover) for a single axis swing.			
12	The use zone for a bucket swing extends six feet on the sides. In the front and rear of the swings, the use zone is equal to twice the distance from the pivot point to the seating surface.			
13	Bucket seat pivot points are 47-96 inches above the protective surfacing.			
14	The use zone for a multi-axis swing (e.g. tire swing) extends six feet plus the length of the suspending members (e.g. suspension chains) in all directions.			
15	Multi-axis swings are suspended in a horizontal orientation using three suspension chains or cables connected to a single swivel mechanism that permits both rotation and swinging.			
16	Drainage holes must be present on the underside of the tire for drainage.			
17	The minimum clearance between the seat of a tire swing and the uprights of the supporting structure is 30 inches.			
18	The minimum clearance between the bottom of the tire seat and the protective surface (ground cover) is 12 inches.			
Slides				
1	Slides are composed of materials that are appropriate for the climate (e.g. metal slides not used in hot, sunny climates).			

No.	Worksite Inspection Item	Present	Needs Correction	Date Corrected
2	Handholds present to facilitate the transition from standing to sitting are at the top of the slide.			
3	Slide platforms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large enough to allow child to change direction to get off slide. • Sufficient length to facilitate transition from standing to sitting. • Are horizontal and at least as wide as the chute. • Surrounded by guardrails or barriers to prevent falls. 			
4	No spaces or gaps are present between the platform and the start of slide.			
5	The sides of the slide chute are at least four inches high extending along both sides for the entire length.			
6	Toddler slides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average incline of slide chute is < 24 degrees, no section >30 degrees. • Slide chutes are 8-12 inches wide. • Chute exit region is 7-10 inches long if any portion of the chute exceeds 24 degrees, and no more than 6 inches above the surface. • Use zone is at least 6 feet around the slide. For composite structures, the minimum use zone between access structures and the side of slide is 3 feet. 			
7	Preschool/School age children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average incline of slides is <30 degrees, with no section of the slide with a slope > 50 degrees. • Chute exit region is at least 11 inches long, < 11 inches above protective surfacing if slide is 4 feet high or less, and 7-15 inches above the surface if slide is over 4 feet high. • Use zone around a slide is 6 feet, except for exit area. Use zone for the slide exit area (slides < 6 feet high) is 6 feet. For slides > 6 feet high, the use zone in front of the exit is equal to the height of the slide, up to a maximum of 8 feet. 			
8	Tube slides: minimum internal diameter is 23 inches, and they must meet all the applicable recommendations for other slides.			
9	Appropriate type/amount of ground cover present in use zones.			
No.	Policy/Procedure Inspection Item (policies/procedures are in place for each of the following items)	Present	Needs Correction	Date Corrected
1	Swings and slides are regularly inspected. Inspections include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All S-hooks remain closed, all nuts and bolts are tight. • Swivel mechanism for multi-axis swings are in good condition. • All swing chains are in good condition. • Tire swings do not have any exposed wires or steel belts. • Hanging mechanisms do not have exposed crush points. • All equipment remains in good condition, with no cracks, protrusions or other hazards present. 			
2	All issues identified during maintenance inspections are addressed and both the inspections and actions taken are documented.			
3	Supervision policy ensures adequate adult supervision is provided, and supervisors ensure all play equipment is used as intended.			

Resources that can be used to address these checklist items are available at www.safeforitourism.org/Resources. These resources include signs, policies, forms, logs, and other items.

Checklist items based on CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook (<http://www.cpsc.gov//PageFiles/122149/325.pdf>)