

# Play Areas Checklist

## Other Equipment

Review Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed By: \_\_\_\_\_

No.	Worksite Inspection Item	Present	Needs Correction	Date Corrected
<b>Balance Beam</b>				
1	Signs are posted indicating the age of child the balance beam is intended for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance beams are not recommended for toddlers</li> <li>• Preschool children: &lt; 12 inches above the protective surface</li> <li>• School age children: &lt; 16 inches above the protective surface</li> </ul>			
2	Design of balance beam allows easy access to the beam and does not present a tripping hazard when mounting or dismounting.			
3	Beams are in good condition: no splinters, cracks or uneven surfaces.			
<b>Sandbox</b>				
1	Sandbox is located away from other play equipment and does not overlap the use zone of other play equipment.			
2	Sandbox is constructed to permit drainage.			
3	Sandbox is covered with a lid or other type of covering when not in use.			
4	Sand is replaced as necessary to prevent the transmission of disease and keep it free of foreign materials.			
<b>Merry-go-round</b>				
1	Merry-go-rounds are not used on playgrounds intended for toddlers.			
2	The merry-go-round is in good condition, with no splinters or rust.			
3	The rotating platform is continuous, approximately circular, and has no sharp edges or corners.			
4	There are no openings between the axis and the periphery of the merry-go-round platform with a diameter of 5/16 inch or larger.			
5	The surface of the platform has maximum height of 14 inches for preschoolers and 18 inches for school age children.			
6	The underside of the bottom of the platform is no less than 9 inches above the protective surfacing.			
7	Merry-go-round platforms do not have any up and down (oscillatory) motion.			
8	No components of the merry-go-round extend beyond the perimeter of the platform, and no shearing or crush mechanisms are accessible.			
9	There is a secure means for children to hold on.			
10	Mechanism in place limits peripheral speed of rotation to 13 ft./sec.			
<b>Spring Rockers</b>				
1	Sign is present indicating spring rockers are designed for toddlers and preschool children, and not for use by school age children.			
2	For toddlers, the seat is 12-16 inches high, and spring rockers with opposing seats have at least 37 inches between seats.			

No.	Worksite Inspection Item	Present	Needs Correction	Date Corrected
3	For preschoolers, the seat is 14-28 inches high.			
4	Use zones extend a minimum of 6 feet in all directions.			
5	Seat design does not allow the rocker to be used by more than the intended number of users.			
6	Each seating position is equipped with handgrips and footrests.			
7	The springs minimize the possibility of children crushing their hands or feet between coils or between the spring and the rocker.			

### Seesaws

1	Use zone extends a minimum of 6 feet in all directions from the edge/end of the seesaw.			
2	Seesaws are in good condition; have protective ground cover in place.			
3	For fulcrum type seesaws, signs are posted indicating they are for school age children, and not for use by toddlers/preschoolers. Spring centered seesaws can be used by younger children, and appropriate signage is in place if present.			
4	In a fulcrum seesaw, the fulcrum does not present a crush hazard.			
5	Fulcrum seesaws: partial car tires or shock absorbing materials are embedded in the ground under the seat or secured to the underside of the seat to minimize impact with the ground.			
6	Fulcrum seesaws do not have footrests.			
7	Spring centered seesaws follow the requirements for spring rockers, including footrests.			
8	Handholds are provided on all seesaws at each sitting position, and they do not turn or protrude beyond the sides of the seat.			

### Play Panels and Steering Wheels

1	Steering wheels on play panels are completely enclosed and the center of the wheel does not create a protrusion.			
2	Play panel components are free of pinch, crush and shear points.			
3	All fasteners, connectors and covering devices on play panels do not loosen and are not removable without tools.			
4	Play panels are free of head and neck entrapments (no openings between 3.5 and 9 inches).			

No.	Policy/Procedure Inspection Item (policies/procedures are in place for each of the following items)	Present	Needs Correction	Date Corrected
1	All equipment is regularly inspected. Inspections include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All nuts and bolts are tight.</li> <li>• Wood surfaces are free of cracks and splinters.</li> <li>• No peeling paint, rust or other signs of deterioration are present.</li> <li>• Signs posted, in good condition with age/rules for activities.</li> </ul>			
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.safeagritourism.org/Resources](http://www.safeagritourism.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>), Creating Safe Play Areas on Farms ([www.marshfieldclinic.org/safeplay](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/safeplay)); National Program for Playground Safety ([www.playgroundsafety.org](http://www.playgroundsafety.org))