

## Appendix D – Facility Guidelines

### Edinburg Parks and Recreation Master Plan

#### **AGE APPROPRIATE DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR PLAYGROUNDS**

Since the 1930s, thousands of playgrounds have been built to provide safe, secure areas of play for children to develop and just "have fun." But how safe are our children? According to the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) statistics, nearly 205,860 playground-related injuries requiring emergency room visits occur each year. Approximately 156,040 of those injuries occur on public playgrounds.

A key to many of those injuries is the fact that numerous children are playing on equipment not designed for their age. Thus, the steps or railings may be too far apart or require additional strength and coordination causing children to fall or trip. According to CPSC statistics regarding playground injuries to preschool-age children (under 5 years), approximately 40 percent of all injuries involved climbers.

Most injuries related to age inappropriateness involve children ages 0 to 4 playing on equipment designed for children ages 5 to 12. However, older children should not play on equipment designed for younger children. Equipment that is too small may not be developmentally challenging and may create hazards by having small steps or narrow spaces.

The National Program for Playground Safety recommends that parents be proactive in selecting age appropriate equipment and requesting separate play areas for different age groups -- ages 2 to 5 and 5 to 12. These areas should be marked by signage indicating the age-appropriate areas. Parents and other interested adults are not expected to become trained playground equipment inspectors, but they can review equipment to be sure that it is appropriately designed for the age levels and needs of the children using the equipment.

Please consider the following factors when selecting age-appropriate equipment in order to help make playgrounds safer.

**Playground equipment should foster appropriate physical development and be scaled accordingly.**

Children are developmentally different in size and ability. Most children ages 2 to 5 are smaller, weaker, less coordinated and have a higher center of gravity than 5 to 12 year olds. Thus, they need smaller steps and crawl spaces. Hands require smaller grips and bodies require appropriately placed

railings on platforms. On the whole, playground equipment for 2 to 5 year olds should be designed lower to the ground.

Keep in mind playgrounds should physically challenge all children. Older children should be encouraged to use overhead and horizontal bars because they have greater arm development and strength. However, the same pieces are not appropriate for 2 to 5 year olds.

Remember for all children on all equipment, there should be no spaces 3-1/2 to 9 inches where heads or bodies could become trapped.

Playgrounds also can facilitate other areas of physical development. They can stimulate senses with different textures and contrasts in color. They can help develop dynamic balance by providing smaller children with small ramps or steps and school-aged children with rope and chain ladders, bridges and balance beams.

Appropriate play areas for children ages 2 to 5 could include:

- ◆ areas to crawl;
- ◆ low platforms with multiple access such as ramps and ladders;
- ◆ ramps with pieces attached for grasping;
- ◆ low tables for sand, water and manipulation of materials;
- ◆ tricycle paths with various textures;
- ◆ flexible spring rockers;
- ◆ sand areas with covers; and,
- ◆ shorter slides (usually no taller than 4 feet).

Developmentally appropriate play areas for children ages 5 to 12 could include:

- ◆ rope or chain climbers on angles;
- ◆ climbing pieces;
- ◆ horizontal bars;
- ◆ cooperative pieces such as tire swings, merry-go-rounds, see-saws; slides and sliding poles;
- ◆ open spaces to run and play ball; and,
- ◆ semi-enclosed structures to promote fantasy play and socializing.

**Playgrounds should help ensure positive emotional development.**

Under good supervision, well-designed and appropriately used playgrounds can help create positive emotional development for children. Equipment such as appropriately sized slides and swings encourage children to experiment and stretch their bodies and emotions to new limits. Playgrounds that are

appropriately designed allow younger children to explore new methods of playing and to take qualified risks. Parents can help nurture positive emotional development by observing, supervising, facilitating and complimenting, but not directly interfering unless there is a safety problem.

**Playground equipment should help provide social development.**

Playgrounds may be one of the first social experiences for some children. Good play areas offer children opportunities to play alone or with other children. The playground should allow younger children to easily manipulate items, explore spaces and begin to interact with others. Suggested equipment for play areas for children ages 2 to 5 should offer both single and multi-child use. Appropriate equipment may be single-use equipment such as spring rocking animals or tot swings and more social pieces such as multi-user spring rockers, sand boxes or age-appropriate slides.

Playgrounds for school-aged children should continue to encourage social growth with equipment for single and multi-users such as swings, slides and climbers. Some equipment for 5 to 12 year olds should encourage cooperation. Examples could include tire swings, merry-go-rounds, seesaws and special manipulative equipment that requires more than one user.

Individual pieces of equipment (with the exception of swings that need to be located away from high traffic areas) often can be placed adjacent to one another or attached to other pieces. Close proximity encourages children to move from piece to piece and gives them opportunities to interact.

Children of all ages can develop social skills by working together to maintain their play areas. Tricycles and other loose equipment should be used and placed in designated areas. Children can help pick up trash and push into place loose-fill surfaces such as sand, pea gravel and wood chips that have been displaced by use.

**Play areas should provide intellectual development.**

Playgrounds are a fun way for children to develop intellectually. Playgrounds offer opportunities to learn problem-solving skills, to explore, to manipulate items and to discover new ways to get off and on equipment. Exploration areas include nature trails, large composite structures and play houses. Manipulative equipment includes sand boxes, sand diggers, water wheels, merry-go-rounds, construction materials and special items that turn. Age-appropriate areas offer younger children smaller, safer and more secure methods of getting off and on the equipment like slides, steps or slight ramps.

School-age children should have more advanced methods of getting off equipment like poles, horizontal ladders or flexible bridges to challenge their problem solving abilities.

**Play areas should provide accessibility and play opportunities for all children.**

With the 1991 passage of the American with Disabilities Act, many play areas are being planned or modified to give children with disabilities an opportunity to play on play equipment with other children. The Recreation Advisory Committee of the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board has guidelines on accessibility and playground equipment. The guidelines specify the minimum level of accessibility required in the construction and alteration of play areas covered by the law. For further information, contact the Access Board at [www.access-board.gov](http://www.access-board.gov).

Play areas should offer some stable paths paved with engineered wood fiber, rubber mats or other accessible material to provide access for wheelchairs. Transfer stations on equipment will aid physically challenged children to get off and on equipment. Five-foot wide paths, wheelchair parking spaces adjacent to the play structures, wider platforms and walkways will help children using wheelchairs. Using different textures and colors for paths and handrails can help visually impaired children.

**Examples of age-appropriate equipment.**

This chart is for consideration only - it is not an extensive list.

Age 2-5	Ages 5-12
Activity panels	Swings
Swings	Tire swings
Tot swings	Spiral slides
Small slides	Horizontal ladders
Lower platforms	Chain and net climbers
Spring rocking equipment	Free standing arch climbers
Sand/water tables	Sliding poles
Crawl tunnels	Merry-go-rounds
Playhouses	See-saws
	Track gliders

**Fall Surfacing Guidelines for Playgrounds**

Most of us want challenges and memories for our children. However, parents and educators need to remember that pushing the body to limits also can create falls and injuries.

Statistics indicate that nearly 70 percent of all playground injuries are related to falls to the surface. Recent studies also have found that about 80 percent of playgrounds have unsuitable surfaces.

Thus, an important aspect of reducing playground injuries is to provide cushioned surfaces beneath and around equipment at depths appropriate to equipment height. Surfaces such as asphalt, cement, dirt, grass and rocks are not acceptable surfaces.

The National Program for Playground Safety strongly recommends that parents and other adults become proactive regarding the provision of appropriate surfaces at adequate depths. Parents and other adults can visually inspect the surfaces for any safety problems and be sure that children do not play on unsafe surfaces.

#### **Why is cushioned surfacing needed on playgrounds?**

Falls to the surface are the leading cause of injuries on playgrounds. Approximately 106,000 of all public playground injuries and several deaths each year are related to falls to surfaces. However, shock-absorbing surfaces can help disperse the momentum of a falling body or head, thus, reducing the risk of life threatening injuries.

The National Program for Playground Safety, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and other organizations highly recommend the use of various loose-fill materials such as pea gravel and wood fiber as well as synthetic surfaces that tend to be shock absorbing. Surfaces such as asphalt, cement, dirt, grass and rocks should not be used unless they are being utilized as the base for other appropriate shock absorbing surfaces.

CPSC has established recommendations for appropriate surfacing based on their own testing. One of CPSC's main points states, the more shock absorbing a surface can be made, the more likely it is to reduce injuries. "However, it should be recognized that all injuries due to falls cannot be prevented regardless of the playground surfacing material."

#### **What are appropriate surfaces for playgrounds?**

There are no perfect playground surfaces. Playground safety experts highly recommend the use of various loose-fill or synthetic surface materials. The selection of cushioned surfacing varies from playground to playground. Purchasers need to ask the following questions. Does it meet American Society for Testing & Materials (ASTM) standards and CPSC guidelines? Does it have a proven track record in similar climates? Is it readily available? What are initial and maintenance costs? Will it meet the playground's needs as far as durability, drainage and accessibility?

Acceptable loose-fill materials include hardwood fiber chips or mulch, pea gravel, sand and shredded rubber. Recommended synthetic surfaces include rubber tiles, rubber mats or synthetic poured surfaces.

Loose-fill surfaces should be maintained to a depth proportionate to the height of the equipment. However, a 12-inch depth is a good guideline for equipment up to 8 feet in height.

Manufacturers should provide testing results to indicate appropriate depth of synthetic materials. Be sure to check CPSC guidelines and ASTM standard F1292-95 to make sure the manufacturers testing information is in complete compliance with recommendations.

Surfaces and surface depths are recommended based on critical height of surfacing materials. CPSC and ASTM testing indicates that consumers should look for surfacing that has a critical height with "peak deceleration of no more than 200 G's (acceleration due to gravity) and a HIC (head injury criteria) of no more than 1,000 when tested in accordance with the procedure described in ASTM F1292." Thus, keep in mind to try to prevent concussions and more severe injuries, surfacing should have no more than 200 G's and a HIC of no more than 1,000.

#### **Where should cushioned surfacing be placed?**

Cushioned surfaces should be placed in all playground fall zones. Fall zones are defined as the area under and around playground equipment where children may fall. The total surfacing space is dependent on the type of equipment at the playground. In general, the surface should extend a minimum of 6 feet in all directions from the edge of stationary playground equipment. Because of the momentum of children playing on slides and swings, different calculations for those fall zones need to be made.

The fall zone for slides higher than 4 feet can be determined by adding 4 feet to the height of the slide. For example, a 6 feet slide should have 10' of surfacing extending beyond the exit of the slide. The maximum amount of surfacing for the end of any slide is 14 feet.

Fall zones for swings are twice the height of the pivot or swing hanger in front and in back of the swing seats. For example, if the hanger pivot height is 10 feet, the fall zone must be 20 feet in front and 20 feet in back of the stationary swing seat. Surfacing should also extend 6 feet to each side of the support structures.

#### **What maintenance needs do surfacing materials have?**

Maintenance costs and needs of surfacing materials vary. Loose-fill surfacing materials such as wood chips, sand, pea gravel and shredded rubber have a lower initial cost, but tend to have higher maintenance needs.

In high-use areas, loose materials may need to be raked daily or tilled periodically to loosen compaction and replace materials that have been pushed away. Loads of loose material may need to be trucked in on an annual or semi-annual basis to keep the surface at an appropriate depth.

Loose-fill materials also need to be inspected for protruding and sharp objects such as glass, can tops, sharp rocks or metal objects. Synthetic materials such as rubber mats, tiles and pour-in-place surfaces also have maintenance needs. Repairs may need to be made to gouges, burns and loose areas. Synthetic materials also may need to be swept frequently to prevent sand, dirt, rocks or other loose materials from becoming a slipping hazard.

All surfacing material should provide good drainage. Drainage problems can cause inaccessibility and slipping hazards.

#### **What are acceptable surfaces for playground access?**

New surface materials are being developed daily to help meet accessibility needs for disabled persons. Currently, the most generally accepted surfaces for wheelchair accessibility are uniform wood chips, and synthetic products such as rubber mats or tiles and poured-in-place surfaces. Playground planners should note that the whole play area may not need accessible surfacing. However, an accessible path should be provided to the equipment and accessibility should be made so that play opportunities are given to all children.

Accessible paths should be 60 inches wide, slip resistant and have a slope no greater than 1:12. Transfer stations on playground equipment and parking areas for wheelchairs are good ideas to improve accessibility.

#### **How to determine how much loose-fill surfacing is needed**

This information is based on CPSC critical height testing. The National Program for Playground Safety recommends that, in general, 12 inches of uncompressed loose-fill material be used for equipment up to 8 feet in height.

Nine inches of compressed material will adequately provide safety for equipment with critical heights up to:

- ◆ Wood mulch – 10 feet
- ◆ Double shredded bark – 7 feet
- ◆ Uniform wood chips – 6 feet
- ◆ Fine sand – 5 feet
- ◆ Coarse sand – 4 feet
- ◆ Fine (pea) gravel – 6 feet
- ◆ Medium gravel – 5 feet

In other words, if you have equipment that has an 8-foot high slide, wood mulch would be the only loose fill material considered safe at a depth of 9 inches compressed. Although testing has been done on both compressed and uncompressed materials, please remember that all loose materials compact, especially in high-usage areas and in cold and wet weather. Thus, when installing loose-fill materials allow for compression.

#### **Equipment Maintenance Guidelines for Playgrounds**

The National Program for Playground Safety highly recommends that parents become proactive in helping maintain public playgrounds. Although all adults and parents are not expected to be trained playground inspectors, they can visually inspect the playground for safety problems and make sure that children do not play on any unsafe equipment.

#### **What should a safe playground look like?**

Your first visual impression of a playground is important. Does it look safe and well maintained? Ask yourself these questions:

- ◆ Do fences, hedges or open spaces prevent children from running into traffic or parking areas?
- ◆ Are there any broken pieces of equipment such as broken swing seats or teeter-totters?

- ◆ Does the playground have adequate cushioned surfacing such as wood chips, pea gravel, sand or commercially made products such as rubber tiles or mats? Remember, asphalt, cement, dirt and grass are not adequate surfaces and should not be used in the fall zone under or around equipment.
- ◆ Is there trash such as broken bottles or can-tops lying around that could cause injuries?

If you spot problems that you can remedy yourself, like picking up trash, go ahead and correct the problem. If you observe other safety problems like broken equipment, you need to contact the person or department in charge of the area and ask that it be fixed. Don't try to fix equipment yourself. A judgment call may need to be made -- could the broken equipment cause a life-threatening situation? If so, you may need to ask to have that piece of equipment taken down or barricaded until it can be fixed.

To report a product hazard or a product-related injury, call the department in charge of the area and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) at 800-638-2772.

#### **What types of routine maintenance should be taking place?**

Maintenance routines should be determined for each specific playground. Public agencies should establish maintenance plans based on the recommendations of manufacturers and CPSC guidelines. Inspections and maintenance routines generally are based on the types of equipment, surfacing and usage.

In general, park and recreation departments, community groups and schools maintain and inspect their playgrounds on a regular basis. You may want to ask for an inspection update on your favorite playground to get a better idea of how and what the maintenance personnel assess.

Some items need to be checked regularly, maybe even weekly. These items include:

- ◆ The depth of loose-fill cushioned surfacing such as wood chips or pea gravel that may have been displaced because of use. A good guideline is 12 inches of loose-fill surfacing should be placed under and around the playground equipment where children could fall. Accessibility paths such as rubber mats or poured-in-place surfaces need to be swept to remove debris such as sand, dirt or any loose-fill surfaces that may have been displaced from adjacent areas.

- ◆ Trash that has been tossed in and around the playground. Look for protruding glass, can lids, sharp rocks, metal and other items.
- ◆ Damage to equipment. Vandalism and high usage can cause hazards like broken or missing handrails, guardrails, steps or signs.

Other items need to be checked on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. These items include:

- ◆ Compaction or deterioration of loose-fill surfacing materials such as wood chips, pea gravel or sand. Loads of additional materials may be needed to provide adequate cushioned surfacing. A good guideline is that 12 inches of loose-fill materials should be used for equipment up to 8 feet in height.
- ◆ Equipment that is broken or has loose, worn or missing parts. All parts, even plastic, can break. Check for sharp points, corners or edges. An up-close inspection of bolts, welding points and moving parts should be made. On swings, be sure to look for severe wear and openings on S-hooks and wear of bearing hangers. On merry-go-rounds, check wear of gearboxes and that governor speed. Protective caps or plugs on equipment such as ladders and climbers should be checked and replaced if needed.
- ◆ Trip hazards that have been created by settling of equipment, usage or vandalism. A general walk-through may reveal exposed concrete footings or anchoring devices, rocks, roots or uneven surfacing materials.
- ◆ Wooden equipment that has splinters, large cracks or deterioration. A wood preservative, applied once a year, will help protect from deterioration. Preservatives should meet both CPSC guidelines and American Society for Testing & Materials (ASTM) standards.
- ◆ Metal equipment and pieces that may have rust or deterioration. Metal equipment may need to be repainted periodically. All paints and other similar finishes should have no more than 0.06 percent lead by dry weight. Playground equipment that was purchased prior to 1978 may need testing for lead paint unless the manufacturer documents that non-lead paint was used.
- ◆ Proper drainage in the playground area. Water should not collect under or near equipment, especially under slide and swing areas, where ice could form and cause falls.

**What other safety measures should be checked on a regular basis?**

Most maintenance of equipment involves making sure the equipment's surfaces and mechanical workings are safe. However, other aspects need to be considered.

The National Program for Playground Safety recommends compliance with CPSC playground safety guidelines in its Handbook for Public Playground Safety. Playgrounds, whether they are old, recently installed or a just a few years old, need to be inspected. Manufacturer's recalls, warnings or updates should be observed. CPSC warnings should be taken into consideration.

Other general safety points include:

- ◆ No openings on playground equipment should be more than 3-1/2 inches or less than 9 inches where children's heads or bodies could be trapped.
- ◆ There should be no v-shaped openings or open areas close to the top of slides where strings or ropes could get caught and cause strangulation.
- ◆ Cushioned surfaces should be placed in the fall zone for play equipment. Asphalt, cement, dirt, grass and large rocks are not appropriate surfaces. Nearly 70 percent of all playground injuries are related to falls to the surface.
- ◆ There should be no more than two swings in a bay or support structure. Those swings should be at least 24 inches apart at the seat base and be 30 inches from the side supports.
- ◆ All S-hooks should be closed. Mechanisms on teeter-totters and other equipment where fingers could get pinched should be closed.
- ◆ All hard animal swings that could ram into a child should be removed.

### Planning a Play Area for Children

The development of an appropriate play area for children takes careful planning. It is important to listen to various points of view, to consider professional expertise, to observe children's needs, to evaluate the current site and to work with playground equipment manufacturers or custom designers of play areas. Planning may take a year or two. Preliminary research and preparation helps pay dividends later.

The following steps have been created to help administrators and/or volunteers for schools, childcare centers, or community recreation areas create a logical and comprehensive plan. It is recommended to follow the steps in the order given.

### 24 STEPS TO A SAFE PLAYGROUND

1. Form a playground committee of 6 to 10 people who represent various points of view.  
For child care centers, include: several teachers, the director, a custodian, board members, parents and playground supervisors. For schools, include: representatives from upper and lower elementary grades; special

education and physical education teachers; administrators; support staff such as the nurse, custodian and playground supervisors; parents including a PTA representative, a fundraising chair and/or project chair. For parks and recreation settings, include: the recreation director, park supervisors, maintenance specialists, park board members, city council representatives and parents.

2. **Contact a neutral consultant knowledgeable about playgrounds.**

Company representatives or custom designers often have vested interests so it is suggested to work with a neutral consultant. You may obtain consultant names from the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD); National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS); or National Recreation Park Association (NRPA). The consultant should attend the initial or second meeting of the planning group. It may be appropriate to pay a fee and/or cover expenses for the consultant. The information the consultant gives should save money over the length of the project.

3. **Obtain written materials on playground safety in order to know what guidelines and standards should be met.**

Playground Safety & Injury Prevention Resources

- ◆ Guidelines: United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Handbook for Public Playground Safety.
- ◆ American Society for Testing & Materials (ASTM) Standards: F-1487 for Public Use Playground Equipment and F-1292 for surfacing.
- ◆ Books about playground safety (optional)

4. **Determine the developmental needs of the children for the site.**

There are three age-appropriate areas, 0 to 2, 2 to 5 and 5 to 12, that need to be considered. Decide how the play area will be used: in free play, in physical education, with school classes, during recess or lunch periods, during and after school, in conjunction with sporting events at parks, on weekends, during play supervised by professional staff or aides or by parents, etc. Usage will help determine needs and choices.

5. **Remember to plan for children with disabilities.**

- ◆ Remember, all children, disabled and non-disabled, should have access to some playground structures.
- ◆ Plan to meet future ADA guidelines and current interpretations recommended in ASTM 1487.

- ◆ Cooperate with schools who may be using the area to identify their needs.

6. Evaluate the current play area with an assessment form.

Use a neutral consultant or a trained or knowledgeable person in the community to perform this duty. As a result of the evaluation, determine:

- ◆ What to retain and remove.
- ◆ What to fix.
- ◆ What to purchase.

7. Research and decide how to address the following issues:

- ◆ Hazard analysis: Think about accident-causing situations that cannot be seen or perceived by the user and how they can be handled.
- ◆ Legal issues: Check insurance company requirements on equipment; check on insurance when using volunteers to install equipment or supervise children.
- ◆ Risk management system: Determine who will create and file maintenance inspection sheets on a regular basis and where information will be kept.
- ◆ Supervision: Decide training requirements for playground supervisors.

8. Get suggestions from the children on the site regarding what kinds of things they would like to do in the area.

Those activities can include building, cooperating, planning, running, climbing, socializing, exploring, manipulating and jumping. Then, ask them what equipment they think would help them be able to do those tasks. Do not ask what equipment they would like to have first. That could prevent good ideas from being generated.

9. Get suggestions from teachers, supervisors and youth leaders.

10. Send for at least ten catalogs from playground surface companies asking for information about shock absorbent surfaces to be placed under permanent equipment.

All companies should provide evidence that their materials meet the CPSC Guidelines and the ASTM standards, where applicable. Refer to the

end of this Appendix for a list of playground surface manufacturers and distributors.

11. Send for catalogs from at least ten playground equipment companies.

Indicate for which age levels equipment is intended; ask for information about equipment for children who are disabled; and use only equipment that meets CPSC Guidelines and ASTM standards. Refer to the end of this Appendix for a list of playground equipment manufacturers and distributors.

12. Form a budget after the site has been evaluated, children's needs have been assessed and catalogs have been consulted.

A fund raising chair should be included in this discussion. The budget should include the cost of the shock absorbent surface, as well as the equipment, installation and maintenance and fencing costs.

13. Make 3 to 6 goals you hope the play area will meet.

For example:

- ◆ The play area must have separate areas to accommodate different age groups served.
- ◆ The younger children must have opportunities to manipulate various textures and have space for wheel toys.
- ◆ Older children must have opportunities to cooperate, climb, explore and build arm strength.

Compile information on your goals, the dimensions of the area, equipment that you already have and intend to retain, pieces from other companies that you want to use. (You do not have to buy all equipment from one company, but you may not attach one company's equipment to another's or it voids the warrantee.)

14. Send the information to three companies for plans and quotes.

Have the companies send back to you a plan, costs and rationale regarding ways that their plan meets your goals. Request the vitae of the designer for the company. If there is no evidence of knowledge of children noted, consider using another company.

15. Develop a fund raising plan and schedule.
16. Obtain and verify instructions for installation and maintenance from equipment and surfacing companies.
17. Work out a payment method.
18. Implement a file system to document decisions that have been made, maintenance work and assessment reports.  
This may be incorporated with other risk management documents.
19. Install the equipment, using company representatives or volunteers.
20. Train appropriate personnel to maintain and inspect the equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions.
21. Instruct supervisors on proper use of equipment and other supervision tips.
22. Teach children proper use of new equipment and review at least once a year.
23. Plan a celebration for the planning committee and the fundraising committee when the project is completed.
24. Let the children play!

**Playground Safety and Injury Prevention Resources**

Organization	Resources Provided
<p>American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance            1900 Association Drive            Reston, VA 22091            Phone: 800-321-0789            Web: <a href="http://www.aahperd.org">www.aahperd.org</a></p>	<p>Publications on school, child care center, and park playground safety and injury prevention and/or information about playgrounds for children with disabilities</p>
<p>American Society for Testing &amp; Materials (ASTM)            100 Barr Harbor Drive            West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959            Phone: 610-832-9585            Fax: 610-832-9555            Web: <a href="http://www.astm.org">www.astm.org</a></p>	<p>Detailed information on playground site and surface testing standards, including Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use Standard F 1487-93 and Impact Attenuation of Surface Systems Under and Around Playground Equipment Standard F 1292-95</p>
<p>National Program for Playground Safety            School of HPELS            University of Northern Iowa            Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0618            Phone: 800-554-PLAY            Fax: 319-273-7308            Web: <a href="http://www.playgroundsafety.org">www.playgroundsafety.org</a></p>	<p>Library resources, answers to ten common questions about playground safety, top issues and priorities about playground injury prevention, statistics, and general information about playground safety and injury prevention</p>
<p>National Recreation &amp; Park Association (NRPA)            2775 South Quincy Street, Suite 300            Arlington, VA 22206-2204            Phone: 800-626-6772            Fax: 703-820-4940            Web: <a href="http://www.activeparks.org">www.activeparks.org</a></p>	<p>Information on playground inspection certification classes, playground related publications, and inspection tools</p>
<p>U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)            Washington, DC 20207            Phone: 800-638-2772            Web: <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov">www.cpsc.gov</a></p>	<p>Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook for Public Playground Safety or to report a product hazard or product-related injury</p>

<p>Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI)          11501 Georgia Avenue, Suite 315          Wheaton, MD 20902          Phone: 800-423-3563          Web: <a href="http://www.udel.edu/bateman/acei">www.udel.edu/bateman/acei</a></p>	<p>Parent's playground safety checklist</p>
<p>International Association for the Child's Right to Play (IPA)          c/o Dr. Marcy Guddemi          Department of Education and Research, KinderCare          P.O. Box 2151          Montgomery, AL 36102-2151          Phone: 205-277-5090          Fax: 205-271-1717          Web: <a href="http://www.ipausa.org/">www.ipausa.org/</a></p>	<p>Information about children's play opportunities and play rights</p>

Source: National Program for Playground Safety  
 (<http://www.playgroundsafety.org/resources/list.htm>)