Playground Safety Checklist*

- Make sure surfaces around playground equipment have at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand, or pea gravel, or are mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials.

- 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 structures more than 30 inches high are spaced at least 9 feet apart.

- Check for dangerous hardware, like open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends.

- Make sure spaces that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs, measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.

- 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.

- Check playgrounds regularly to see that equipment and surfacing are in good condition.

- Carefully supervise children on playgrounds to make sure they're safe.


** Helpful hints also found in Playspace Owner’s Manual, p 14