

Appendix Q: Playground Safety Recommendations

Developmental skills for 4-and 5-year-olds	Equipment needs to meet developmental skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physically competent • Climb well, enjoy trying to go higher and higher • Enjoy challenges • Roll / Catch balls • Skip on alternating feet • Begin riding two-wheel bike • Balancing • Hop on 1 foot • Walk backwards, toe-heel • Jump forward 10 times without falling • Turns somersault 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climbing and sliding structures that provide challenge for increasing skills • Bikes and paths to ride on and explore • Water and sand play equipment • Art studios • Structures or materials for imaginative play • Loose parts to enhance play • Natural features to experience seasons • Places to run, play ball, games, and balance • Wheel vehicles to pull or push • Balls • Walking board • Crawl through equipment • Toys for digging

Outdoor Environmental Design and Safety Regulations

The playground should not be shared with younger or older children at time of play.

The outdoor play environment should include:

- Equipment that is age and developmentally appropriate
- Be located in clearly defined space with semiprivate areas where children can play alone or with a friend
- An area for children to have large motor experiences such as running, climbing, balancing, riding, or swinging.
- Activities such as dramatic play, block building, manipulative play, or art activities.
- A natural environment to explore, including a variety of natural and manufactured surfaces and areas with natural materials such as nonpoisonous plants, shrubs, and trees.
- Adaptations so children with disabilities can fully participate in the outdoor curriculum and activities.
- Outdoor play areas on the premises shall be enclosed by a fence or wall at least four feet in height. The fence or wall shall be free from sharp protruding edges.
- Secured gates and arranged so that staff can supervise children by sight and sound.
- A minimum of 60 square feet of outside play space for each child this should be for all 18 children at one time
- Sandboxes are allowed if they allow for drainage, are covered when not in use, and cleaned of foreign matter on a regular basis. Staff must replace sand as often as necessary to keep the sand clean and free of debris.
- Concrete or asphalt shall not be used under outdoor playground equipment, with the exception of wheel toys.
- The outdoor play area shall be well-drained.
- Tripping hazards should be removed
- Playground equipment which is not designed to be portable shall be securely anchored so that it cannot be tipped over by an adult or child.
- The outdoor play area protects children from injury from falls (resilient surfacing should extend six feet beyond the limits of stationary equipment).
- Wooden equipment needs to be checked for sharp areas and splintering wood that could cause cuts or splinters
- Metal pieces of equipment should be checked for rust, if rust is visible it must be removed immediately.
- All broken toys and equipment must be removed and replaced immediately