

Playground / Gross Motor Area Safety

POLICY:

Routine playground/gross motor area safety inspections and rules will be established and maintained at all times. The Consumer Product Safety Commission and National guidelines related to playground safety will be followed.

This policy relates to [Head Start Performance Standards 45 CFR Part 1302.47](#)

PROCEDURE:

1. Staff will thoroughly inspect the playground / gross motor area each day prior to the children's indoor / outdoor play time. This check will include, but not be limited to, a search for the following hazards:
 - . glass, needles, or sharp objects
 - . dangerous equipment that may cause falls, cuts, pinching, puncture wounds, or serious injury
 - . inadequate ground cover underneath play structures and swings
 - . unfamiliar person who does not have a legitimate reason for being in or around the playground area
 - . poisonous foliage, bees/wasps nests, animals/animal feces, trash/garbage
2. Some equipment located on a public school playgrounds may be inappropriate for very young children. Head Start children should not be allowed to play on these structures.
3. Staff will establish and routinely review playground / gross motor area safety rules with the children. Playground rules will minimally include:
 - . Establishment of area that is safe for running (i.e. not under/around play structures).
 - . Playground boundaries.
 - . Appropriate play for slide safety (*i.e. sitting down facing forward on the slide*).
 - . Wheel toy play: traffic boundaries and safety rules for both the driver and pedestrians. Children will wear helmets during trike riding.
 - . Instructions for children when they encounter objects on the playground.

4. Proper supervision is very important in preventing playground / gross motor accidents/injury. There will always be a minimum of two (2) staff persons on the playground during gross motor play. Only Head Start staff will be considered the supervising adults when children are on the playground / gross motor area. Parents and other volunteers may increase the ratio of adult-to-children but they will not replace staff members.
5. Staff must be strategically located on the playground / gross motor area during play so that all children are within sight at all times.
6. First aid kits must be taken and carried by a staff person when on the playground / gross motor area. First aid kits are not to be placed on a bench or other areas where they are in reach of children.