

CHILD CARE AND PLAYGROUND SAFETY CHECKLIST

Finding child care providers:

- Ask neighbors and friends for the names of recommended providers
- Ask for references
- Contact references

After find a potential child care provider:

- Ask other parents how they like the provider
- Observe the behavior of other children the provider cares for

Arrangements:

- Arrange for your child and care provider to have interaction with other children and providers (to help ensure proper care is being provided)
- Leave phone number (s) and address (es) where you can be reached

REGULARLY:

When you return home or when you pick up the child:

- Ask lots of questions, not just " how'd it go ?" to help determine if proper care has been provided, e.g., no hitting

PLAYGROUNDS

Installing a playground:

- Put in at least 6 - 12 inches of suitable ground cover (e.g., sand, bark) under and around the playground
- Provide shade, especially over areas used the most

Before letting children use a playground:

Make sure the playground does not have:

- Openings that could trap a child's neck
- Sharp edges
- Hard ground under parts of equipment from which children could fall
- Climbing surfaces or slides higher than 7 feet - for most children

- Openings of more than 3 inches between slats - children could squeeze their body through, then hang by their head which could be too large to fit through
- Loose hardware, e.g., nuts, bolts, chains
- Hard swing seats
- Nails not nailed down
- Loose wood that could cause splinters
- Hot metal surfaces

Make sure the playground does have:

- Soft ground, e.g., sand, bark, spongy material
- Swings well clear of play areas and high traffic areas
- Rubber or plastic tubing around swing chains - to keep fingers from being cut or pinched
- Warn children about any dangers on the playground

While supervising children on a playground:

- Make sure children do not use equipment inappropriately, e.g., too many children on a swing