

Head Start Playground Safety Checklist

- Yes No
- 1 Do the surfaces around the playground equipment have at least 9 to 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand, or pea gravel, or are mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials?
- 2 Does the protective surfacing extend 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.
- 3 Are play structures more than 30 inches high spaced at least 9 feet apart?
- 4 Does the playground equipment have any dangerous hardware, like open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends, sharp points, rough edges damaged or splintered wood?
If Yes Explain: _____

- 5 Is there any spaces that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs? Spaces should measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.
- 6 Does the playground have tripping hazards; like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, rocks and cracked or uneven surfaces?
If Yes Explain: _____

- 7 Do all elevated surfaces, like platforms and ramps, have guardrails to prevent falls?

The Head Start playground safety checklist was conducted following the above guidelines on _____
(Date)

Teacher signature: _____

Reminder to all staff: This does not replace, but is in addition to daily checks. Carefully supervise child on the playground to make sure they're safe.

All needed repairs should be reported to your Area Manager as soon as they are noticed and documented on a triplicate form.

Send to Area Manager When Completed