

As winter begins to slow down, more and more kids are heading for their favorite playground. Everyone gets excited for the spring weather, but don't forget, as parents, to check out the playground where your kids are playing! The Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center Violence & Injury Prevention Program would like to share this valuable information on Playground Safety.



Playground Safety Tips

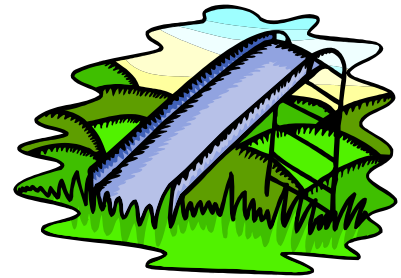
Some things to look at when entering a playground area:



◆ Playgrounds need to be inspected, especially after a long winter. All Playgrounds and its surrounding areas should be inspected for weather damage and destruction of any playground equipment your child might be using. Only after an inspection and repairs have been made should children be allowed to use the damaged equipment.

◆ The majority of unintentional injury related deaths among children occur during evening hours when children are most likely to be out of school and unsupervised. It is important for parents to make sure that their children receive the proper supervision at all times.

◆ As the temperatures rise, it is important to make sure that metal slides are cool in order to prevent children's legs from getting burned while sliding down. Also, check that there are no splinters or nails sticking out on the surface of playground equipment.



◆ Drawstrings of hoods and collars of jackets, shirts and hats can strangle a child if caught on playground equipment. One way to prevent this is to remove the drawstrings from the child's clothing or apparel. For **similar reasons**, scarves should not be worn either during play.

◆ Make sure there are no rocks, pieces of glass, toys, debris or other children at the bottom of a playground slide before child goes down.

◆ Make sure children are not running with food or lollipops in their mouths, as these can cause severe injuries if the child falls.

◆ Carefully supervise children on play equipment to make sure they are safe.

This information was compiled by the Violence & Injury Prevention Program and Nadine Medeiros (Farmington HS). (For more safety information, go to www.connecticutprevention.com) Sources: Consumer Product Safety Commission; KaBoom!; Today's Parent.com- Dr. Paul Roumeliotis Child Health And Wellness Info Site; & Martin Lesperance @ www.safete.com. WV State Risk Minimizer newsletter.