



Helping Children Play Safe!

How Can You Help Children Play Safely?

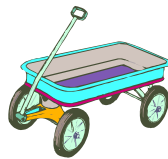
Proper supervision is essential to safe play.

Parents and teachers should ensure that children observe the following rules:

Wear shoes, such as sneakers, that do not slide on wet surfaces. However, check for footwear rules at indoor play areas.

Do not play on hot metal surfaces, such as slides, that may cause third-degree burns.

Do not play on slippery or wet equipment or force body parts through small spaces.



Do not cross in front or behind moving swings.

Get off a seesaw only when your partner's feet are on the ground.



Do not push or pull others while playing on climbing equipment.

How Can an Unsafe Playground Be Made Safe?

If a playground is unsafe, it can be renovated by making these improvements:

⇒ Install a fall zone of appropriate materials that extends the correct distance in all directions under all equipment.

⇒ Modify unsafe equipment if it is

A project of The Florida Partnership for Parent Involvement

Center of Excellence ♦ Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute ♦ Florida Children's Forum
Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters ♦ Hillsborough County head start ♦ Hillsborough County Even Start

economical; otherwise, unsafe equipment should be replaced.

➡ Replace hard swing seats with softer ones and remove animal-type swings and multiple-occupancy glider swings. Install guard or barrier walls on all elevated surfaces, close S hooks, and modify protrusions.



➡ Space equipment appropriately and remove equipment with openings that can trap children's heads.

➡ Remove hazards that children may trip over, such as exposed concrete footings, tree roots, stumps, or rocks; modify containment borders and abrupt changes in surface elevations.

➡ Talk with contractors and equipment manufacturers to ensure that equipment complies with safety standards.



For more information on playground safety and guidelines for creating safe playgrounds, contact your Resource and Referral Center at the address below.



For more information contact:



The Center for Parent Involvement (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI's goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, "Beyond the Basics" resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi. The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series' themes include:

- Family Empowerment
- Parent Involvement
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness
- Violence in the Lives of Children
- Transition to Kindergarten

The Center was one component of a project led by Hillsborough County Center of Excellence in collaboration with the Department of Child & Family Studies at USF's de la Parte Institute and the Florida Children's Forum. Other project partners include HIPPIY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), Hillsborough County Head Start and Hillsborough County Even Start. For more information about these projects, call 813.974.4612.

Violence & Young Children, Parent Tip Sheets, #3: Helping Children Play Safe!

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