

Risk Management Guideline

Playground Supervision

Background:

Each year, 200,000 children 14 years or younger are treated for playground-related injuries in the United States. Of these injuries, 45% are severe, including fractures, internal injuries, concussions, dislocations, and amputations. One of the highest concerns around fractures points to the long term impact of a fracture to the child's growth plate which can alter development of the limb permanently. 50% of all injuries on the playground are due to lack of supervision.

Recommendation:

Each and every individual who will supervise playground use and recess should review the following guidelines at least once per year. While it is impossible to eliminate all accidental injuries on a playground, school staff can prevent injuries caused by the lack of supervision or control of how playground equipment is used and how students play together at recess.

GUIDELINES:

1. Always have rules for kids to follow when on the playground. Keep it simple.
 - Use equipment as intended
 - One at a time
 - Move in same direction
 - No racing/chasing/running
 - No upside down
2. Always enforce the rules with meaningful consequences – be sure to support each other and keep discipline consistent.
3. Playground supervisors need to be out on the playground as soon as kids are released for play (recess, before school, after school, etc.). **Most major accidents to students happen in the first 4 minutes on the playground.**
4. Bullying should always be treated very seriously.
5. Supervisors always need to keep in mind their role- supervising student play:
 - Move Randomly and Scan the area – Turn around and try to keep your eye on the playground, check problem areas
 - Don't turn your back on students if at all possible
 - NO VISITING – don't stand in a circle and talk to each other.
 - How to hold a conversation: Continue scanning
 Keep it short
 Playground topics only
 - Interact with students-get eye contact to make sure they are listening to you
 - Reinforce good behavior, discipline bad behavior
 - Proximity – Keep close to the area and influence the kids with your presence.
6. Have a plan and be prepared for emergencies. Know who you report to, have first aid supplies including personal protective items on hand.
7. Training on Playground Supervision Techniques is available for all staff. It lasts about 30 minutes but can be tailored to your needs. Contact CRSIG to schedule a training session for your Supervisors: angela@crsig.com