

SCHOOL PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES FOR PURCHASE, MAINTENANCE AND USE

The following guidelines are provided to help ensure that school playgrounds are safe places for children.

A. Equipment Purchase or Playground Development

Safety is to be an important criteria in the approval of any equipment purchase or playground development. In order to ensure that safety is given full consideration, any proposed structure and/or equipment purchase or development is to:

- a.) comply with current CSA or other comparable standards (currently CSA -Z614-98 - for children 18 months to 12 years of age) All structures are to be constructed of metal and equipment of approved products. The CSA standard also applies to the protective surface area surrounding the structure and equipment.
- b.) be reviewed by the Division Maintenance Supervisor and the MAST loss prevention officer
- c.) receive board approval before purchase or development proceeds.

Any new equipment should be assembled under the supervision of someone who is knowledgeable about CSA guidelines and who will provide a letter verifying that the structure has been assembled according to the CSA guidelines. Any new structure will become the property of Beautiful Plains School Division.

B. Retrofitting or Removal of Equipment

Schools are encouraged to provide equipment that meets current safety standards. Therefore, any equipment which does not meet CSA -Z614-98 should be removed or modified to comply with those standards by September 2002.

C. Equipment and Playground Maintenance

In order to help ensure that playgrounds remain safe places, all playground equipment is to be inspected by the school custodians each week (holiday periods included) using the form provided by the Division. Playground supervisors should be encouraged to be alert to potential hazards and to report these to the school administrator. Deficiencies noted during the regular inspections or at other times are to be reported to the school administrator and the maintenance supervisor.

Any equipment having deficiencies that would present a serious risk to users should be removed from use until the deficiencies are addressed.

D. Safe Use of Equipment

Schools are encouraged to establish guidelines and procedures for the safe use of playgrounds and equipment. (see example on page 2) Safety rules are to be enforced by all supervisors. Safety training for students on a periodic basis is encouraged.

E. Supervision

A minimum of two supervisors is recommended for larger enrolment schools. Should one become involved with students, the other is then available to continue the supervision.

EXAMPLE OF SAFE PLAYGROUND USE GUIDELINES:

General Rules

1. No pushing
2. No running
3. Take turns
4. No fighting
5. If someone is injured, report this to the supervisor immediately
DO NOT MOVE THE PERSON.

Slides

1. Students to travel down the slide, no walking up the slide.
2. No pushing
3. Take turns
4. Before sliding down, be sure no one is at the bottom of the slide.
5. Students must sit while sliding.
6. No playing at top of slide.

Teeter Totters

1. One person to each end.
2. No bumping each other off.
3. When exiting, be sure the other person is aware that you are getting off. DO NOT let the teeter totter drop while someone is on the other end.
4. No standing on the seat or bar between seats.

Creative Play Structure

1. Walk, no running
2. No pushing
3. Take turns
4. Travel down the slides on your seat, no walking up the slides.
5. No climbing on rails.
6. Before accessing an activity, be sure no one else is at the bottom.
7. No jumping off platforms
8. Tag games are not allowed.

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