

Playground

- Playground equipment should be installed and maintained in accordance with Consumer Product Safety Commission Standards.
- Supervision should be provided at all times when children are using the playground during church or school activities.
- Playground equipment should be fenced. Gates to the playground should be kept locked at all times when the playground is not in use.
- Playground equipment should be thoroughly inspected annually to determine whether there has been any deterioration or decay. Equipment of wood construction may splinter due to weather conditions and normal use. Areas that show signs of deterioration should be sanded or replaced.
- The surface area below the playground equipment should be protected with an impact-absorbing material such as pea gravel, granulated pine bark, sand, or chopped tires. A minimum depth of 10 inches of material is recommended. Maintenance is required for loose particulate materials because they tend to crater and compact, especially pea gravel and sand.
- Partial car tires or some other shock-absorbing material should be imbedded in the ground beneath the seats of seesaws. This will help prevent limbs from being crushed between the seat and the ground, as well as cushioning the impact.
- Swings should be located away from other equipment and activities. The swing structure should be stable with footings buried below ground level and covered by protective surfacing.
- There should be no visible corrosion or wear on chains or “S” hooks. All “S” hooks should be closed completely.
- Wood or metal seats should not be used.
- Swing hangers should be spaced wider than seats.
- There should be a 24 inch minimum clearance between seats and 30 inch minimum clearance between seat and the support structure.
- The fall zone for single axis swings should be a minimum distance of 2 times the height of the pivot point, which applies to both in front of and behind the pivot point.

- The fall zone for multi-axis tire swings should be a minimum distance in all directions of 6 feet plus the length of the supporting chain or rope.
- The fall zone for spinning or other moving equipment should extend a minimum of 6 feet in all directions from the perimeter of the equipment.
- Make sure spaces that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs, measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.
- Check for sharp points or edges in equipment.
- Look out for tripping hazards, like exposed concrete footing, tree stumps, and rocks.
- Make sure elevated surfaces, like platforms and ramps, have guardrails to prevent falls.