



# for the Playground

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## Safety on the Playground

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The importance of a qualified and caring playground supervisor frequently goes unnoticed by everyone but the children. As a playground supervisor, you need to be a compassionate adult, often lending a friendly ear, as well as an administrator, enforcing the rules. The primary job of a playground supervisor is to be concerned about the safety and welfare of the children that are in your care. How you do your job may impact not only their safety but the value of their play.

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What are the attributes of a good playground supervisor?

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- Observant
- Good listener
- Fair and objective
- Patient
- Consistent
- Physically moves around play area
- Common sense
- Respects others
- Compassionate
- Sense of humor
- Positive attitude
- Positive role model
- Good rapport with the children
- Ability to anticipate dangerous situations
- Ability to avoid distractions
- Understanding of children's physical skills

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Playground safety has several main components:

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1. Adequate, trained, equipped, and attentive playground **supervision**.
2. Students are **instructed** on how to properly play on the playground equipment. Written playground **safety rules** taught to all students, reviewed with parents, and consistently enforced.
3. **Safe equipment** and **adequate surfacing**.
4. **Preventative maintenance** and frequent **inspections** performed.
5. **Emergency response**.

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In upcoming *Safety Talks* we will discuss these five components of playground safety in more detail. Next time we will examine the how and why children are injured on the playground.

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Most playground injuries are minor bumps, bruises and cuts, and scratches; unfortunately sometimes playground injuries can be more serious. However, by providing information about playground management the number and severity of injuries that occurs on the playground can be reduced.

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