

Tips for Stakeholders on Safety Measures While Children are at Play

Tips for teachers, caregivers, and other stakeholders

Safety Measures to Observe

- Do not leave children alone while playing; they need to be supervised at all times.
- Conduct daily checks of the premises where children engage in play.
- Ensure that electrical outlets have safety caps, and all wires are secured out of children's reach at all times.
- When in the classroom, keep dangerous supplies out of reach. You should keep materials like scissors, bulletin board tacks, glue, sharp objects, choking hazards, poisonous materials and other potentially hazardous supplies on a high shelf or locked away in a cupboard.
- Ensure that you arrange the classroom in such a way that it would allow children to move easily and to be seen from all angles.
- Teach and guide children to always wash their hands with non-toxic hand wash after play.
- Ensure that children are compliant with their immunization requirements and are free from all childhood diseases so that they can freely interact with their peers.
- Do not allow a sick child to join in physical play activities to avoid the spread of diseases.
- Have a first aid kit that is easily accessible around you at all times to provide first aid treatment in case of emergencies. You should check all kits and restock frequently and check for expired supplies to avoid giving them to children.
- Be sure that fire extinguishers are placed within your reach; you should also learn how to operate them.
- Set clear and simple safety rules that children can understand while playing both indoors and outdoors.
- Sanitize all of the toys, tables, chairs and other surfaces that children use in play activities.
- Always do a routine thorough check of the play area and be sure to remove trash, sharp objects, metals, animal feces and any other objects and debris that can pose as threats to children's health.
- Always keep gates closed so that children do not have access to move out of the designated play or school area.
- Conduct a regular inspection of surface and playground equipment for broken, worn, or missing parts.
- Cover sand boxes when not in use so animals will not use them as a litter box.
- Endeavour to provide some shade in the play space, either from natural sources like trees or from a tent or other forms of shelter.
- Make sure all play equipment has soft surfacing underneath it. Materials such as sand, pea gravel, rubber mulch, and wood chips (saw dust) are soft enough to absorb falls.

Tips for Teachers and Schools

- Children are natural explorers and risk takers. They move quickly, put things in their mouths, drop or throw things, and love to climb and hide. They require constant supervision.
- Make sure all play equipment has soft surfacing underneath it. Materials such as sand, pea gravel, rubber mulch, and wood chips (saw dust) are soft enough to absorb falls.
- Children's health and safety are paramount. A well-designed environment that is safe and clean helps to keep children safe.
- A well-designed environment gives children the chance to explore freely, manage and encourage learning. It reduces spending time redirecting children and therefore is less stress for the caregiver.
- The layout of the environment determines how children play and learn. Small spaces allow for quiet, small group and individual play. Large, open spaces encourage kinesthetic activities and loud play.
- How you choose and display resources will define how the children play with and use them. Make strategic choices in allocating play materials and making them accessible.
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