

BEST
PRACTICES
TRAINING

CHILD CARE SERVICES WEBINAR

OUTDOOR HAZARDS

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Georgia State University



Introduce myself and Shawnell and Dana, perform sound check to make sure everyone can hear okay before beginning.

**BEST
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CHILD CARE SERVICES WEBINAR

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Training Unit Manager
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**Bright from the Start:
Department of Early Care and Learning
Child Care Services**



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PLAYGROUNDS

In 2015, over 4,000 citations
were given in the
area of **PLAYGROUNDS**



Playgrounds are the number one cited rule according to Bright from the Start childcare licensing. Over 4,000 citations were issued in 2015. Let's review how to keep Georgia's playgrounds a safe environment for our children.

EQUIPMENT

All equipment is in good repair and developmentally appropriate



First of all, all equipment must be in good repair and developmentally appropriate

EQUIPMENT

Equipment is the size and skill level that is appropriate for the age of the children



Developmentally appropriate means equipment should be of a size and skill level that is appropriate for the ages and developmental abilities of the children who use it.

PLAYGROUNDS



RIDING



RUNNING



THROWING



DIGGING



CLIMBING

Children need equipment to practice a variety of skills such as climbing, balancing, riding, building, pushing, pulling, lifting, digging, running, and so on

EQUIPMENT

Swings should be appropriate size for toddlers



Toddlers shall not be permitted to swing in swings designed for school-age children.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment is in good repair



Outdoor equipment in good repair means it is free of lead-based paint, sharp corners and regularly maintained in such a way as to be free of rust and splinters that could pose significant safety hazards to the children.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment is anchored securely



Climbing and swinging equipment is anchored securely and has a resilient surface beneath the equipment. Equipment used for climbing and swinging is not placed over, or immediately next to, hard surfaces such as asphalt, concrete, dirt, grass, or flooring covered by carpet or gym mats not intended for use as surfacing for climbing equipment.

All equipment shall be arranged so teachers can actively supervise all children in all areas of the playground. We will talk more about this shortly.

FENCING

Fencing should be at least 4 feet high



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The fence/barrier should be constructed of solid, sturdy material such as chain link or smooth wood, and should be at least four feet high in all areas. Wire, wood, or other material which is sufficiently sturdy to provide protection is acceptable.

FENCING



Gaps in fencing may **not** exceed **3 1/2 inches** in order to prevent an entrapment hazard

Fence gates shall be kept closed except when persons are entering or exiting the area

All fences should be maintained in good condition with no gaps, loose wires or exposed sharp prongs

Fence gates should be kept closed except when a person is entering or exiting the playground.

Gaps in fencing material should not exceed 3.5 inches in order to prevent an entrapment hazard.

SURFACES

All equipment should have the required number of inches of resilient surfacing



All equipment should have the required number of inches of resilient surfacing

Resilient surface materials may be uniform or loose fill materials. Uniform materials are rubber mats or similar materials held in place by a binder. Test data must be obtained from the manufacturer of such material used, should include ASTM Standard Specifications, and be maintained on file. Examples of loose fill materials include sand, pea gravel, wood chips, bark and mulch.

SURFACES



Resilient surface materials should not include sharp jagged edges, splintered wood or large pieces. The “fall zone” from a piece of equipment is the area in which any activity or movement can be expected to take place around the equipment.

SURFACES

All equipment has the required number of inches of resilient surfacing

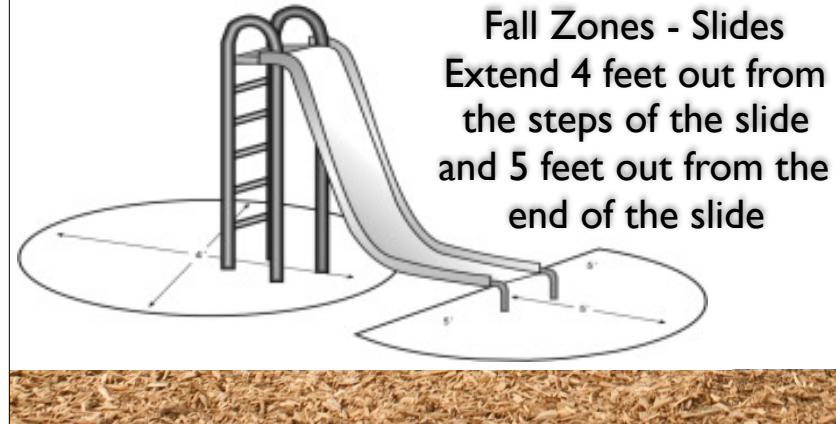


At least **six inches** or more of resilient surface is recommended for equipment five feet or greater in height

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FALL ZONES

All equipment has the required number of inches of resilient surfacing



Fall zones for slides (free-standing or part of a multi-climber) would need to extend 4 feet out from the steps of the slide and 5 feet out from the end of the slide. Remember that children do not always fall straight and the fall zone of the steps should extend on the sides and the fall zone at the end of the slide should extend out and to the sides in a half-circle design.

SURFACES

All equipment has the required number of inches of resilient surfacing

At least **three inches** of resilient surface is recommended for equipment less than five feet in height.



at least three inches of resilient surface is recommended for equipment less than five feet in height. The depth of the resilient surface should be determined by the use of a ruler or a similar measuring device. For the purpose of determining resilient surface needs, climbing equipment is measured based on the highest point of access and swinging equipment is measured by the height of the top bar.

SURFACES

All equipment has the required number of inches of resilient surfacing

Maintain resiliency by periodically using a rake to rotate surface of the ground cover and prevent decomposition

Make it part of an activity with older children by giving them a rake

Maintain resiliency by periodically using a rake to rotate surface of the ground cover and prevent decomposition.

Here's a tip from a licensing consultant, have older children in your program use child size rakes to help out .

HAZARDS

No hazards are present on the playground

- Cleaning Supplies (Bleach, Cleaning Sprays)
- Paint
- Lighters
- Stacks of Newspapers
- Gasoline
- Charcoal
- Lighter Fluids
- Hand Sanitizer
- Aerosol Sprays
- Toxic Ingestible Materials (pet food or pet waste)
- Tools



It is also important to ensure there are no hazards present on the playground

Hazards include the following:

Paint

Lighters

Stacks of Newspapers

Gasoline

Charcoal

Lighter Fluids

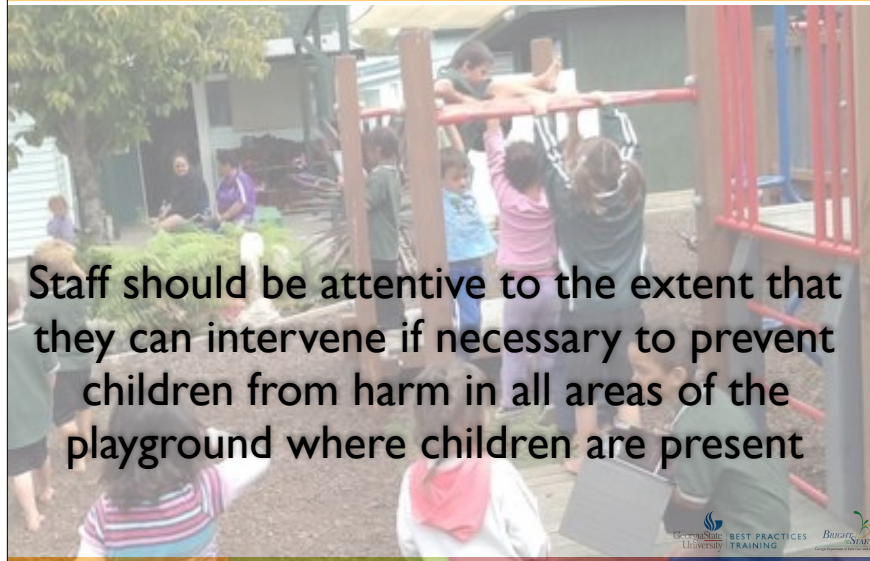
Cleaning Supplies (Bleach, Cleaning Sprays)

Hand Sanitizer

Aerosol Sprays

Toxic Ingestible Materials (pet food or pet waste)

SUPERVISION



Now let's talk about supervising children on the playground. The purpose of supervision is to protect the health and safety of children and ensure that they receive appropriate care at all times. Staff should be attentive to the extent that they can intervene if necessary to prevent children from harm in all areas of the playground where children are present.

ACTIVE SUPERVISION



When talking with your staff, use the term, Active Supervision. This means the teachers attention is focused on the children, they are not distracted, they are constantly scanning as well as counting the number of children on the playground.

SUPERVISION

AGE OF CHILDREN	STAFF:CHILD RATIO
Infants (less than one year)	1:6
One Year Olds (walking)	1:8
Two Year Olds	1:10
Three Year Olds	1:15
Four Year Olds	1:18
Five Year Olds	1:20

Supervision also means following the required staff child ratios. Remember these ratios must be met at all times including outdoor time. You must also have at least 100 square feet per child of outdoor space for the number of children occupying the playground at one time in a child care setting.

SUPERVISION

Playground monitoring should be assigned to a staff person

Playground is spot checked **daily**

Playground is formally checked weekly using a checklist

Teachers make reports when they see an issue

Plan is developed to repair or replace

Let's think now about the best way to stay compliant with outdoor hazards on the playground

First, assign a staff person to monitor the playground

The playground should be spot checked daily, this is important to do first thing in the morning **BEFORE** children go outside to make sure there are no hazards.

Use a formal checklist at least once a week.

No.	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT					
1	Are there sharp corners, rust or splinters?	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
2	Are there exposed nails, screws, bolts or pipes?	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
3	Is there splintered, deteriorated wood?	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
4	Are there open/deformed "S" or "C" hooks, rings, links, crush/pinch joints?	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
5	Are there broken/missing steps, rungs, hand-guard, rails, handles, sides, ladders?	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
6	Are there any broken seats, parts or equipment?	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
7	Do you see any areas of entrapment?	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
8	Are there any unprotected protrusions?	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
	Are there broken/missing steps, rungs, hand-guard, rails, handles, sides, ladders?	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
	Is there an obstructions on slides?	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
	Is all equipment securely anchored?	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
	Is paint chipped or peeling?	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
	Are swing hangers, chains, handholds worn?	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N

Here is an example of a playground equipment checklist, the staff person monitoring the playground would walk around and check for exposed screws or nails or any broken parts of equipment.

No.	FACILITY EXTERIOR and PLAYGROUNDS	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1	Equipment has no lead-based paint, sharp corners, rust or splinters.					
2	Pathways are smooth and free of obstruction					
3	Playground fences are secure with no broken or jagged sections					
4	Playground equipment is safe with smooth edges and seating surfaces					
5	Outdoor toys are safe; Broken toys are turned in					
6	Fire ants, mound locations are identified (if any)					
7	Water/Sand tables are free of stagnant water/debris					
8	Fences are free of thorn vines					
9	Gaps in fences do not exceed 3.5" to avoid entrapment					
10	Water/Sand tables are free of stagnant water/debris					

Here is another example of a checklist used for the exterior of the building or playground area. This checklist is used for monitoring fences, pathways, and outdoor toys. Checklists like these can be edited to suit the needs of your program.

SUPERVISION

Playground monitoring should be assigned to a staff person

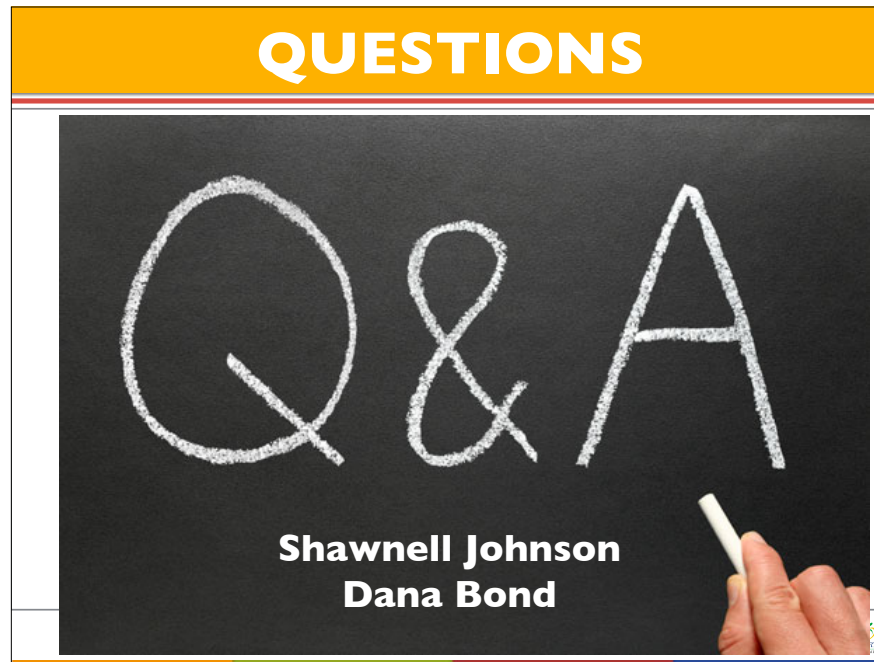
Playground is spot checked **daily**

Playground is formally checked weekly using a checklist

Teachers make reports when they see an issue

Plan is developed to repair or replace

Finally, the teachers need to report issues to the administrator so a plan can be developed to repair or replace anything that needs to be addressed.



Now let's give you an opportunity to ask questions, I have Shawnell and Dana here to answer any questions you have about outdoor hazards.