

PLAYGROUND BEST PRACTICES

SLIDES, SWINGS, FALL ZONES, FENCES, RESILIENT
SURFACING, RESTRICTED EQUIPMENT

>>> SWINGS



Swings should not be attached to any other equipment, and there can be no more than 2 swings per bay. All fall zone measurements should extend the required distance both in front of swings and behind swings and have a 6' perimeter from each side of the swing structure.

Infants and Toddlers:

Belt Swings: Pivot point 47" or less, with a fall zone twice the distance of the pivot point to the ground.

Bucket Swings: Pivot point 47"-95," with a fall zone twice the distance of pivot point to the bucket seat bottom.

Preschool and School Age:

Belt Swings: Pivot point 8' or less, with a fall zone twice the distance of the pivot point to the ground.

Tire Swings: Fall zone required is the distance from the pivot point to the top of the tire plus 6' in all directions.

**Pivot Point = where the swing starts moving at the top of the chain*

>>> FENCES

Fences should be 6' tall with gate latches positioned 48" or higher and have no sharp points, holes, or protrusions, such as bolts facing inward with more than 2 threads.

>>> SLIDES

Infants and Toddlers: Slides can be up to 32" high, with 6' fall zone at the slide exit and 3' on the remaining sides around the slide.

Preschool: Slides can be up to 60" high, with 6' fall zone at the slide exit and on all remaining sides around the slide.

School Age: Slides can be up to 84" high, with 6-7' fall zone at the slide exit. If the slide is taller than 6', the fall zone should be at least as long as the slide is tall. The fall zone should be 6' on the remaining sides around the slide.



>>> FALL ZONES AND SURFACING

Resilient surfacing is needed for all equipment with a fall height greater than 18". Nine inches is required for sand, pea gravel, wood mulch, and wood chips. Six inches is required for shredded rubber. Poured in place systems must meet ASTM F1292 requirements.

Fall zones for climbing equipment should extend at least 6' in all directions for preschoolers and school ages and 3' in all directions for infants and toddlers.

Fall zone requirements are specific to one piece of equipment and cannot overlap the fall zones of other equipment.



>>> RESTRICTED EQUIPMENT

Equipment Not Appropriate for Any Age Group: trampolines, swinging gates, giant strides, climbing ropes not secured at both ends, animal figure swings, multiple occupancy swings (except tire swings), rope swings, swinging dual exercise rings, and trapeze bars.

Additional Equipment Not Appropriate for Children Younger than 6 Years: freestanding arch climbers, dome climbers, freestanding flexible climbers, fulcrum seesaws, log rolls, track rides, spiral slides with more than one 360 degree turn, parallel bars, and vertical sliding poles.

Additional Equipment Not Appropriate for Children Younger than 4 Years: horizontal ladders, overhead rings.

Additional Equipment Not Appropriate for Children Younger than 2 Years: rung ladders, merry-go-rounds, rotating tire swings, spiral slides with a full 360 degree turn, and balance beams.