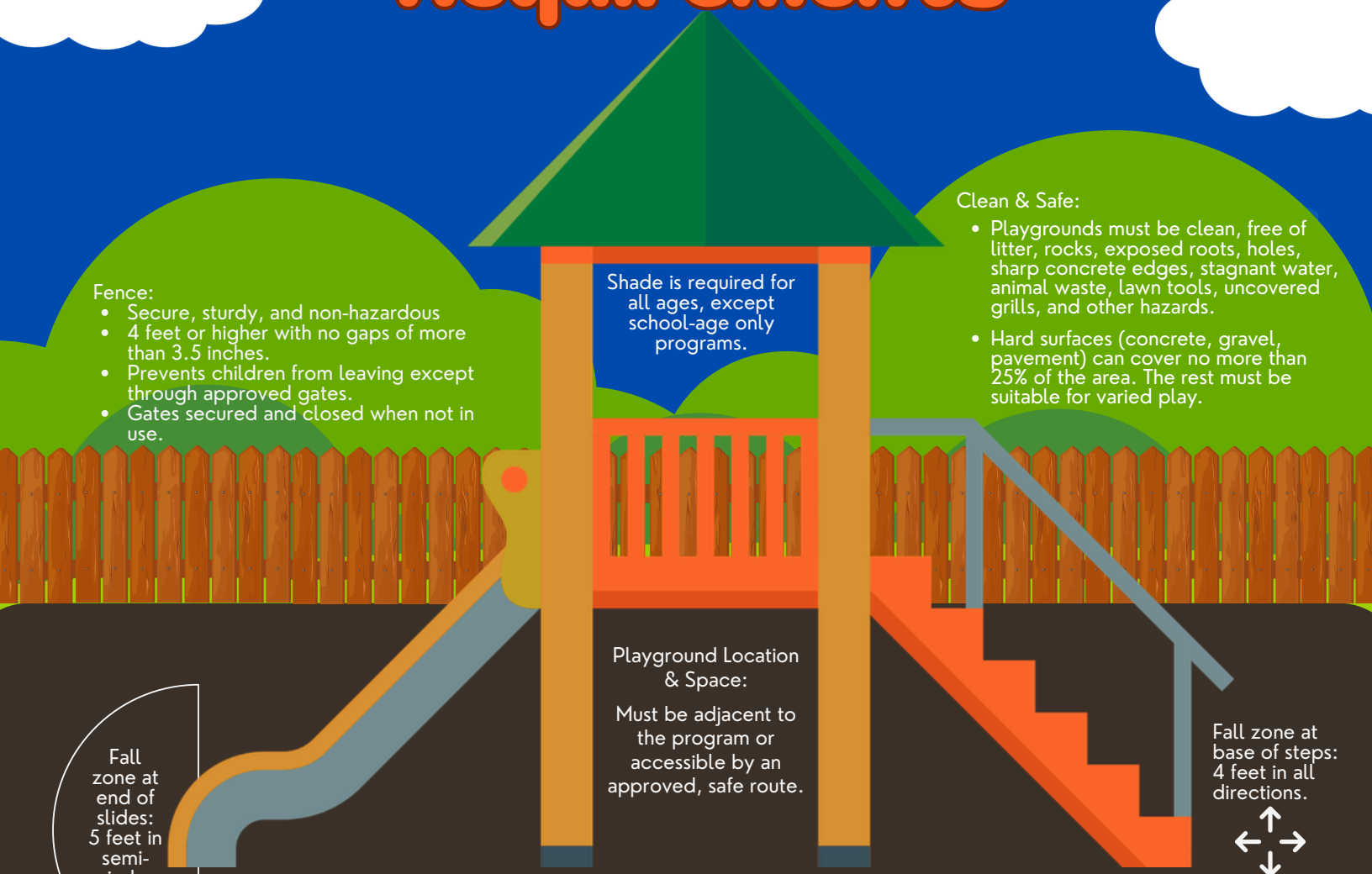
Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Child Care SERVICES

Playground Licensing Requirements



Fence:
- Secure, sturdy, and non-hazardous
- 4 feet or higher with no gaps of more than 3.5 inches.
- Prevents children from leaving except through approved gates.
- Gates secured and closed when not in use.

Shade is required for all ages, except school-age only programs.

Clean & Safe:
- Playgrounds must be clean, free of litter, rocks, exposed roots, holes, sharp concrete edges, stagnant water, animal waste, lawn tools, uncovered grills, and other hazards.
- Hard surfaces (concrete, gravel, pavement) can cover no more than 25% of the area. The rest must be suitable for varied play.

Playground Location & Space:

Must be adjacent to the program or accessible by an approved, safe route.

Fall zone at end of slides: 5 feet in semi-circle.

Fall zone at base of steps: 4 feet in all directions.

Climbing and swinging equipment must be securely anchored and cannot be placed over hard surfaces, such as dirt or concrete. Must have approved resilient surfacing and a maintained fall zone:
- Any depth for climbing equipment up to 3 feet
- Minimum of 3 inches for climbing equipment 3-5 feet
- Minimum of 6 inches for climbing equipment 5 feet or higher and under belt swings
- Belt swings fall zone = length of the swing chain + 7 feet in front and behind the swings
- Resilient surfacing is not required under bucket swings, infant/toddler swings that require a child to be buckled in, or under portable equipment.
- Acceptable loose fill resilient surfacing includes: mulch, wood chips, pea gravel, sand, and shredded rubber.
- Unitary protective surfacing, such as poured in place systems, are also allowed and must meet ASTM F1292 requirements.

Equipment Safety:
- Must be age-appropriate and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, recommendations, and intended use.
- Must be free of lead paint, rust, splinters, sharp corners or other hazards.
- Must be arranged to allow clear supervision, freedom of movement and minimize danger of accident and collision.
- Trampolines of any kind are not allowed.

CCLC Playground Size:
- Space during use = 100 sq ft per child
- Centers with 19+ children = 100 sq ft x ⅓ licensed capacity
- Centers with 18 or fewer children = 100 sq ft x licensed capacity