**Playground Safety**

* Make sure surfaces around playground equipment have at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand, or pea gravel, or are mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials.
* Check that protective surfacing extends at least 6 feet in all directions from play equipment. For swings, be sure surfacing extends, in back and front, twice the height of the suspending bar.
* Make sure play structures more than 30 inches high are spaced at least 9 feet apart.
* Check for dangerous hardware, like open “S” hooks or protruding bolt ends.
* Make sure spaces that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs, measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.
* Check for sharp points or edges in equipment.
* Look out for tripping hazards, like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.
* Make sure elevated surfaces, like platforms and ramps, have guardrails to prevent falls.
* Check playgrounds regularly to see that equipment and surfacing are in good condition.
* Carefully supervise children on playgrounds to make sure they’re safe.

**Home Playground Safety Checklist**

1. Install and maintain a shock-absorbing surface around the play equipment. Use at least 9 inches of wood chips, mulch, or shredded rubber for play equipment up to 7 feet high. If sand or pea gravel is used, install at least a 9-inch layer for play equipment up to 5 feet high (pea gravel surfacing is not recommended for children under 3 years of age).
2. Install protective surfacing at least 6 feet in all directions from play equipment. For swings, be sure surfacing extends, in back and front, twice the height of the suspending bar.
3. Never attach—or allow children to attach—ropes, jump ropes, clotheslines, or pet leashes to play equipment: children can strangle on these.
4. Check for hardware, like open “S” hooks or protruding bolt ends, which can be hazardous.
5. Check for spaces that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs: these spaces should measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.
6. Make sure platforms and ramps have guardrails to prevent falls.
7. Check for sharp points or edges in equipment.
8. Remove tripping hazards, like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.
9. Regularly check play equipment and surfacing to make sure both are in good condition.
10. Carefully supervise children on play equipment to make sure they are safe.

Reprinted from U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (2001). Is Your Home Playground a Safe
Place to Play? Retrieved September 8, 2008: http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/pg1.pdf

Supplemental Handout 2.2D