

PLAYGROUND SAFETY - Procedures

A. General

1. ERC is committed to provide a safe playground for our children to enjoy.
2. ERC will adhere to all Childcare Minimum Licensing requirements for playground safety at all times.
<https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dccece>
3. A designated staff member should inspect the playground for safety prior to children being on the playground.
4. Any hazard identified on the playground should be reported to the Building Coordinator immediately.
5. Children are not to be unsupervised at any time.
6. All areas of the playground should be supervised while children are outside. Staff should be dispersed in different areas of the playground and have different lines of sight while outside supervising children.
7. Two or more staff are always required to be outside with the children on the playground (two or more staff are required even if in ration with one).
8. All playground equipment is to be used per manufacturer's instructions and age limitations.
9. Staff shall monitor children and help them to follow these safety guidelines:
 - a. Children are not to play with sticks, rocks, stones or any object that could harm themselves or other children.
 - b. Children should not be swung higher than staff's waist.
 - c. Child safety straps on swings should always be used.
 - d. Children should slide down slides in a seated position only.
 - e. Children should not climb up slides.
 - f. Tricycles should be kept on cemented areas; one child at a time on one tricycle.
 - g. Hardballs (i.e., golf balls) are not permitted.
 - h. Jump ropes are not permitted.
 - i. Bubbles should be monitored to prevent ingestion.
10. Before a staff member can be relieved to go on break, that staff member must notify all other playground staff on duty and identify the children for which they will be responsible.
11. If an incident occurs while on playground duty, the staff member will immediately inform the nurse and appropriate supervisor that there is an emergency on the playground.
12. Off Limits Areas – Children shall not be allowed to play:
 - a. By gates or doors
 - b. Off Limit areas for each child development center location will be determined by the Building Coordinator. The Building Coordinator will notify staff of any off limit area at each specific location.
13. The transition clipboard must be located in the area where the majority of the children are playing.
 - a. In and out time must be posted when exiting classroom.
 - b. Documentation must be completed as occurs.
14. Supervisors will monitor in and out sheet for compliance.

B. Weather and Outdoor Play

1. Outdoor play is an important aspect of the child development program and is an extension of our instructional day. It is the intent of ERC to take children outside for outdoor play every day. It is a licensing policy that children are outside for a total of at least one hour of outdoor play per day in suitable weather. During colder temperatures and/or wind chill, outdoor play could be shortened or suspended.
2. Children may not go outside for outdoor play if the temperature and/or wind-chill is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit.
3. Children may not go outside while it is raining, sleeting, snowing or in case of inclement weather.
4. During winter months, if the temperature/wind-chill is 32 degrees or above, children must be dressed appropriately to go outside and outside time may need to be shortened.
5. Appropriate winter clothing for outdoor play includes:
 - a. Closed Toe Shoes
 - b. Socks

- c. Coat
 - d. Gloves
 - e. Hat or Coat Hood
6. When the heat index is forecast to be ninety (90) degrees Fahrenheit or above, outdoor play will be scheduled during early morning hours or the length of time spent outdoors should be reduced to avoid heat stress.

Last Reviewed: 1/2017, 2/2019

Last Revised:

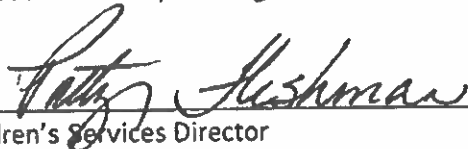
Approved by:



03/06/19

Executive Director, or designee

Date



3/6/19

Children's Services Director

Date

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