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## An update of the Under Two Standard

Many of you have questioned the process of the American Society for Testing Material (ASTM) Under Two Standard. In January, Director, Dr. Thompson traveled to Tampa to meet with the Under Two Standards Committee. They had hoped to finish the Under Two Standard, but due to very helpful suggestions, they will re-ballot the standard one more time. Hopefully, it will be finished this year, so that it will be published by the end of 2004.

## Mark your calendar!

Upcoming events related to playground safety you won't want to miss.

**AUGUST 4-7 OR  
 AUGUST 9-12, 2004**  
 National Program for  
 Playground Safety School  
 Cedar Falls, IA  
 800-554-7529

**OCTOBER 12-16, 2004**  
 National Recreation and  
 Parks Association  
[www.nrpa.org](http://www.nrpa.org)

**NOVEMBER 10-13, 2004**  
 National Association for the  
 Education of Young Children  
[www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)

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## Enroll in NPPS Safety School for August!

This is a great opportunity to gain more knowledge and understanding of playground safety and design. There will be two sessions held on the University of Northern Iowa campus in Cedar Falls, IA. **The first session will be held August 4-7. The second session is August 9-12.** To learn more about the NPPS Safety School, visit our web site at [www.uni.edu/playground/school.html](http://www.uni.edu/playground/school.html)



## Recent articles by NPPS staff

Hudson, S., Thompson, D., Olsen, H. (April, 2004). A through Z of playground safety. Today's Playground. 12-17.

Thompson, D., Hudson, S. (July, 2003). Have fun, stay SAFE on the playground. Church Business. 9-10.



The results show that improvements need to be made in areas of supervision, age appropriate design, fall surfacing, and equipment maintenance. Specifically, the posting of rules, separating play spaces, and maintaining the appropriate depth of loose-fill materials will improve the safety of playgrounds. In order for these areas to improve, it will take a conscientious commitment on the part of child care, school, and park personnel to put the safety of children in the forefront of developing and maintaining playgrounds. NPPS is here to help by providing pamphlets, educational videos, and training kits concerning supervision, planning, surfacing, and maintenance.

For further information about the grades or to find out how your state ranked, please visit our web site at [www.playgroundsafety.org](http://www.playgroundsafety.org). We have also published the second edition of "How Safe are America's Playgrounds? A National Profile of Childcare, School, and Park Playgrounds—An Update." To purchase a copy of the publication for only \$5, email us at [playgroundsafety@uni.edu](mailto:playgroundsafety@uni.edu) or call 800-554-7529.

Though the improved grades are a step in the right direction, NPPS Director Donna Thompson says there is still work to be done. "We are encouraged by this year's survey, but the grades are still just average. Much more can be done to reduce the 200,000 playground injuries that send kids to the emergency room each year."

## Let's Celebrate!

**THIS WEEK IS NATIONAL PLAYGROUND SAFETY WEEK, APRIL 26-29.**

This special week is a time for everyone to focus on playground safety and to become an advocate for safety and injury prevention on our nation's playgrounds. We have sent a letter and proclamation to all state governors asking them to join us in celebrating this week. We have received the following proclamations: **Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin.**

There is still time to get your state aboard! If your state is not listed, we encourage you to write a letter to your governor requesting him/her to sign this proclamation to help raise awareness in your state. To download a copy of a pre-written letter and a pre-written proclamation, visit our web site at [www.uni.edu/playground/safety\\_week.html](http://www.uni.edu/playground/safety_week.html).

# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING!

## School custodian requests Governor to recognize National Playground Safety Week

Carl Sweeney of the Willard Elementary School in Concord, Massachusetts, is working hard to promote child safety within his district. Having accessed the NPPS website, Carl submitted a letter along with a proclamation asking Governor Mitt Romney for his consideration in officially recognizing April 26-30 as National Playground Safety Week in Massachusetts.



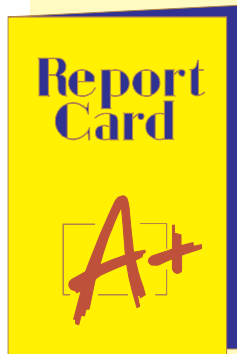
Carl feels that "By making this proclamation, we will be recognizing the importance of safe play in developing a child's physical, emotional, social, and intellectual skills. Both our students and neighbors deserve a safe play environment and our Governor can help encourage that awareness by proclaiming National Playground Safety Week in our state."

Additionally, other NPPS resources such as the "Playground Report Card" and the "Kid Checker" documentation have been used by Carl. He has shared NPPS's resources with other school teachers, the director of maintenance, and the Parent-Teacher Group (PTG). Thus, the PTG has formed a sub-committee and are in the process of evaluating several vendor bids. The goal of the committee is to totally redesign the playground area to include signage and state-of-the-art, age appropriate play structures.

In the next few months the community will be working hard at raising funds to achieve their goal. They will look to Carl and the National Program for Playground Safety for further guidance and information in meeting their challenge.

### University of Toledo, OH students have become strong playground safety advocates!

Candi Lee Hendershot, a Ph.D. student at the University of Toledo, is actively getting involved in trying to pass a bill that would require the state of Ohio's public entities to adopt the CPSC Guidelines. Mrs. Hendershot has found a congresswoman who may sponsor that bill in the State Legislature. We are on board to support their efforts! We look forward to working with these two determined women to make an enormous difference in the state of Ohio! Way to go advocates!



## Report Card Statistics

### Overall Grades

2000: A's = 0	2004: A's = 0
B's = 16	B's = 30
C's = 31	C's = 19
D's = 3	D's = 1

Overall, twenty-seven states (54%) improved their safety report card scores and eleven states remained the same (22%).

### School Playground Grades

2000: A's = 0	2004: A's = 5
B's = 20	B's = 29
C's = 29	C's = 15
D's = 1	D's = 1

Overall, twenty-six states (52%) improved their safety report card scores and 13 (26%) remained the same. Of the 11 states with lower scores, four states (8%) dropped a full grade or more.

### Child Care Playground Grades

2000: A's = 0	2004: A's = 2
B's = 23	B's = 25
C's = 22	C's = 20
D's = 5	D's = 3

Overall 22 states (44%) improved their safety report card scores and seven states (14%) remained the same. Of the 21 states that had a lower score; 8 states (16%) dropped a full grade.

### Park Playground Grades

2000: A's = 0	2004: A's = 1
B's = 19	B's = 23
C's = 25	C's = 23
D's = 6	D's = 3

Overall, 26 states (52%) improved their safety report card scores and 17 states (34%) remained the same. Of the 11 states that had a lower score; 5 states (10%) dropped a full grade.

## Third Ahrens Playground Safety Advocate of the Year Award

### CONGRATULATIONS LYN KALINOWSKI!



The third annual Ahrens Playground Safety Advocate of the Year was awarded to Ms. Lyn Kalinowski from California. Lyn has recently retired with twenty-one years of teaching physical education and working with special needs students in the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District. She was certified SAFE after attending the NPPS Safety School and is CPSI Certified, as well. She has conducted numerous workshops on playground safety and has served as an expert witness on playground related issues. Lyn's commitment to children has been shown through her service as a playground consultant for many school and childcare organizations.

Ms. Kalinowski has helped conduct the NPPS Risk Factor Surveys during the years 2000 and 2003. In addition, she has been a presenter of playground information at national conventions, as well as an author of articles in national journals. She has been responsible for bringing in national experts to California professional conventions to present information about playground safety. Lyn supported and contributed to the California law regarding playground safety.

Lyn's expertise has been adopted by curriculum and safety design guides in Alum Rock, California. She has conducted numerous inspections of playground equipment for many schools. As a result, those schools have taken her advice and designed safer playgrounds. Further, Lyn was chair of the Committee on Play associated with the American Association for Leisure and Recreation (AALR). In addition, she was instrumental in preparing programs about playground safety for that organization. She also served on the AALR Board. For her efforts, she was awarded their Meritorious Service Award. Currently, Lyn serves on the NPPS Board of Directors.

For all that she has done, NPPS is honored to award Ms. Lyn Kalinowski the Ahrens National Playground Safety Advocate of the Year!

## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING!

We'd love to hear what's happening in your area to promote playground safety. Just complete this form, attach your news and mail to: NPPS, School of HPELS, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA, 50614-0618 or playground-safety@uni.edu. Watch for your submission in upcoming issues! Please notify NPPS of any address changes with this form as well.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

My address has changed. Please update your records.