

NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANCE OF SUPERVISION

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Good supervision begins with knowing the ABC's

According to the Consumer Product Safety commission (CPSC), every year over 200,000 children are treated in emergency departments after being injured on the playground. That is about one injury every 2 1/2 minutes. On the average 17 children a year die just because they wanted to play on the playground. It is estimated that in 40% of all playground incidents, the lack of supervision is a contributing cause of injuries. So what do you need to know to become a good supervisor? Good Supervision begins with knowing the ABC's.

A- Anticipation refers to supervisors anticipating the potential dangers and problems.

Supervisors need to anticipate hazardous situations.

- Watch for equipment hazards like loose or protruding nuts and bolts, broken or missing parts.
- Pick up hazardous materials.
- Check for adequate depth of loose fill materials.

- Remove strings on children's clothing.
- Be sure shoes that offer protection from foreign objects are worn on the outdoor playgrounds.

B- Behavior refers to the actions of both children and adults.

Supervisors need to teach children the differences between acceptable and unacceptable behaviors on the playground.

Good supervision behavior means being alert and attentive. Most playground injury incidents occur within the first 5 minutes

It is important that at least one supervisor arrive before the children.

C - Context - Assessing the context or environment

Despite the type or context of the playground, whenever children are on the playground, adults should be present.

- Have an emergency plan.
- Know your supervision ratios.

Recommended staff-child ratios within group

| Age of Children | 6 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 18 | 20 | 22 | 24 | 30 |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|
| Infants (birth-12 mos.) | 1:3 | 1:4 | | | | | | | | | |
| Toddlers (12-24 mos.) | 1:3 | 1:4 | 1:5 | 1:4 | | | | | | | |
| 2 year olds (24-30 mos.) | | 1:4 | 1:5 | 1:6 | | | | | | | |
| 2 1/2 year olds (30-36 mos.) | | | 1:5 | 1:6 | 1:7 | | | | | | |
| 3 year olds | | | | | 1:7 | 1:8 | 1:9 | 1:10 | | | |
| 4 year olds | | | | | | 1:8 | 1:9 | 1:10 | | | |
| 5 year olds | | | | | | 1:8 | 1:9 | 1:10 | | | |
| Kindergarteners | | | | | | | | 1:10 | 1:11 | 1:12 | |
| 6-8 year olds | | | | | | | | 1:10 | 1:11 | 1:12 | 1:15 |
| 9-12 year-olds | | | | | | | | | | 1:12 | 1:15 |

Source: NAEYC, Accreditation Criteria and procedures of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Child Care Professionals It's time to Get Certified



Course Description:

This interactive online inspection course will give you knowledge and understanding to inspect the outdoor play area for safety. You will have four weeks to complete the course on your own time. The pictures, graphics, discussions, readings, and assignment will help create an experience level necessary to be considered an early childhood outdoor play inspector expert.

Becoming an Early Childhood Outdoor Play Inspector:

An Early Childhood Outdoor Play Inspector enables one to inspect outdoor play environments that are located in public childcare centers. The criteria for which, are learned in an online course that sets forth information from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), National Health and Safety Performance Standards (NHSPS), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), American Society for Testing and

Materials (ASTM), and the National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS). Learn more about Early Childhood Outdoor Play Inspector Code of Professional Conduct.

Purpose of this Inspection Course:

You will learn how to inspect for:

1. Proper physical layout of the outdoor play environment.
2. Good sight lines for supervision.
3. Age appropriate design of the equipment and playground.
4. Inspection of age appropriateness includes determining whether or not appropriate equipment is present and if areas are separated properly.
5. Proper surface materials of a play area.
6. Play components that are typically found on childcare center's play environments.

Target Audience:

Human service regulatory professionals, human service providers, independent consultants, allied professions from the health, safety, and legal disciplines, professionals from Departments of Human Services, professionals from Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, licensing consultants, military personnel of child safety, CDC staff, NAEYC centers, NARA members, corporate child care

centers, insurance agents, and any individuals that want to be Certified Early Childhood Outdoor Play Inspectors!

Certification:

If you pass the examination you will be awarded the title of **Early Childhood Outdoor Play Inspector**. Individuals who pass the examination will be mailed a certificate from the National Program for Playground Safety approximately four weeks after the exam and assignment are graded. This certification is valid for 3 years.

Number of clock hours:

Participants will receive 12 clock hours for completion of course.

Cost: \$500 (includes \$100 certification exam; \$130.00 worth of course materials)

To learn more visit:

www.playgroundsafety.org

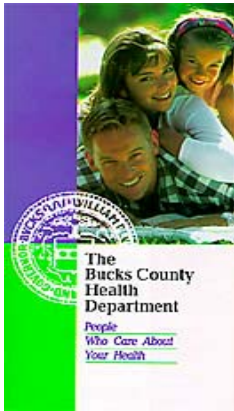


Check out the new look of our website!

- Easy to Navigate.
- Sections specifically for child care professionals, school, youth serving organizations, and home.

www.playgroundsafety.org

Spotlight: Bucks County, Joining Forces for Playground Safety



Way to go Bucks County Pennsylvania! NPPS wants to recognize the tremendous success Bucks County Pennsylvania has had in advocating for playground Safety. The

Bucks County Health Department and the Bucks County SAFE KIDS Coalition have joined forces to promote playground safety throughout their community. These two organizations have partnered and used NPPS materials to provide model training programs in their community.

Three years ago the Bucks County Health Department and the Bucks County Safe Kids Coalition began offering an annual Playground Maintenance and Design workshop for supervisors and facilities staff of local school districts and municipalities. The annual workshop was a huge success with over 50 participants each year. To meet increasing demand, they recently added two additional off site trainings

for individuals who were unable to attend the annual workshop. Each off site training had over 25 participants!

The workshop curriculum was made-up of several NPPS materials including the Nuts and Bolts of Playground Safety. Workshop participants left more knowledgeable and better equipped to design and maintain their play areas. Bucks County Department of Health's Kim Everett had the following to say regarding the NPPS materials that were used.

"The Supervision Kit made it very easy for us to implement this program. It provided us with an informative curriculum and video. We were able to spend our time on promotion and implementation instead of developing the program. Thank you for your support to help us promote playground safety in our community. "

Kim Everett
Health Educator
Bucks County
Department of Health

With their trainings being so well received, it was time to expand. Bucks County Health Department and Bucks

Country SAFE KIDS Coalition extended their trainings to all of the eleven school districts within the county and provided a workshop for playground AIDS. Eight of the eleven school districts within Bucks county have offered this program for their playground supervisors. This program has reached approximately 300 participants in only 18 months. Participants are raving about the valuable knowledge they gained and are implementing changes within their respective schools and facilities. Some schools are so invested in playground safety and excited about spreading the word that they plan to order the NPPS Supervision Kit and/or have requested annual trainings for their staff.



NPPS would like to congratulate Bucks County Health Department and Bucks County SAFE KIDS Coalition for their success in promoting playground safety. We applaud your effort and dedication in advocating safe play areas. Keep up the great work Bucks County!

Products Highlight: Supervision Kit



The SAFE Playground Supervision Kit helps playground supervisors understand and learn the techniques of safe supervision.

Included in the kit are:

- 64 page training manual

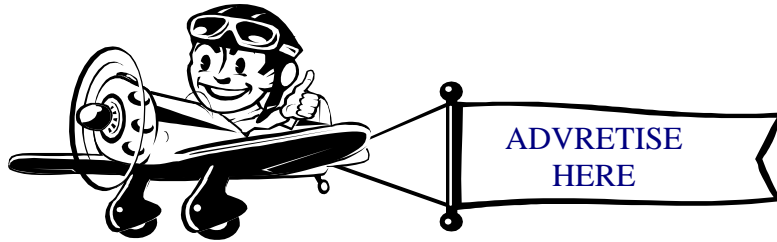
which outlines the ABC's of Safe Supervision

- A video, and a supervision safety pack.
- The Kit also includes a CD power point to use in training.

If you are a school administrator, school board member, member of a parent/teacher organization, child care provider or playground supervisor this kit is perfect for you! Visit www.playgroundsafety.org for more details.

Coming Soon!

Written by the NPPS Staff, *S.A.F.E Play Areas: Creation, Maintenance, and Renovation*, published by Human Kinetics, is direct to facility managers and administrators for childcare agencies, schools, park and recreation departments, youth directors, businesses, and other organizations responsible for maintain play areas. To order your advance copy contact NPPS. All proceeds from the book will help fund education and training programs.



We would like to give you the opportunity to advertise here. For 82 cents a day, your company can advertise on a nationally recognized website. Our customers are asking us to provide a list of playground equipment and surfacing companies. This is our chance to get connected!

Your listing will include a 50 word text message, with your company name, phone number, and links directly to your website. Your listing will continue for a full year at a minimal charge of only \$300.00. To learn more go to: www.Playgroundsafety.org

Facts about our website

- Over 2 million people have visited our website!
- 150,000 child care centers, 50,000 elementary schools, and countless numbers of parents and professionals have access to our website.
- Every day, NPPS is contacted by a child care center, school,, or park department on recommendations for companies that sell playground equipment and surfacing materials.
- NPPS provides a direct link to your website with your company's contact information.



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 _____