



PLAYGROUND SAFETY



TARGET AUDIENCE:
Children in Grades K–5 and their families.

“THE ULTIMATE PLAYGROUND” POSTER CONTEST



In this activity, students and their families work together to design their dream playground, incorporating important safety features.

LOCATION:

Indoors. This activity can be conducted on its own in a smaller space (such as a classroom) or as one station of a larger safety fair.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Safe Kids coalitions have experience conducting playground safety activities in a variety of settings. Partnering with a local coalition is the easiest way to ensure you have access to the expertise, equipment and resources needed to host a successful event.

You could invite a member of the city or county parks and recreation department to serve as a “guest judge” and/or present awards to the winners.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Playground safety tips for the teacher/facilitator to refer to during a group discussion, if needed. (For an example, see this safety checklist on the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website: www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/327.html)
- Safe Kids Worldwide playground safety materials available for at www.safekids.org
- Poster Paper
- Crayons or Markers
- Awards or prizes

PREPARATION:

- None

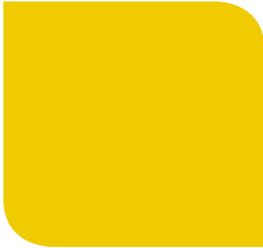
ACTIVITY INSTRUCTION

- Before handing out the poster materials, have a discussion with children and their parents about the features of a safe playground. What should it contain? What shouldn't be there? (Be sure to incorporate all of the playground safety tips from Safe Kids Worldwide and/or the CPSC.)
- Give each family a piece of poster board and markers.
- Invite children to work with their family members to create a design for their “dream playground” on a poster.
- Have children (or parents) label equipment and safety features.
- Remind families that the posters will be judged both on creativity and safety.
- Award a prize to the top three posters, and hang them in a visible location for all to see and enjoy.





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KEY MESSAGES

When you conduct any activity focused on playground safety, share the following key messages with parents (either during the activity, or as a take-home):

1. Always supervise children using playground equipment. Stay where you can see and hear them.
2. Ensure that schools and childcare centers have age-appropriate, well-maintained playground equipment and that trained supervisors are present at all times when children are on the playground.
3. Recommended surface materials include sand, pea gravel, wood chips, mulch and shredded rubber. Rubber mats, synthetic turf and other artificial materials also are safe surfaces and require less maintenance.
4. If there are any hazards in a public or backyard playground, report them immediately (to the school, park authority or city council). Do not allow children to use the equipment until it is safe.
5. Remove hood and neck drawstrings from all children's clothing. Never allow children to wear helmets, necklaces, purses, scarves or clothing with drawstrings while on playgrounds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

More information about playground safety can be found on the Safe Kids Worldwide website: www.safekids.org