

# The "Dirty Dozen"

## Playground Hazards

With over 200,000 playground injuries every year, don't forget to check for these playground dangers before letting your child play.

- #1 Safe Surfacing**  
 Make sure the surface of the playground is wood chips, sand, or rubber.
- #2 Safe Use Zone**  
 Is the fall area under the swings or monkey bars safe?
- #3 Protrusions or strangulation hazards**  
 Watch for bolts or screws sticking out of equipment and don't dress your child in clothes with strings or ties
- #4 Openings to Equipment**  
 Make sure that openings to equipment are either smaller than 3.5 inches or larger than 9 inches to avoid entrapment.
- #5 Equipment Spacing**  
 Is there enough space between the equipment to reduce overcrowding?
- #6 Trip Hazards**  
 These include: exposed concrete, abrupt changes in surface heights, tree roots, tree stumps, and rocks
- #7 Supervision**  
 An injury can occur in seconds. Ensure that your children are ALWAYS supervised.
- #8 Age Appropriate**  
 Not all playgrounds are appropriate for every age. Check for age appropriate playgrounds before taking your kids to play.
- #9 Lack of Maintenance**  
 Check to make sure that the playground is in good repair and that the equipment isn't broken or worn.
- #10 Sharp edges**  
 Inspect the playground for sharp edges or other areas that could harm a child.
- #11 Guardrails**  
 Make sure that all elevated surfaces have guardrails and that these have appropriate height and spacing for safety.
- #12 Dangerous Equipment**  
 Watch for equipment that isn't recommended for public playgrounds due to high risk of accident like free swinging ropes or rings.

Did you know?  
 45% of playground injuries are related to inadequate supervision

Adapted from the National Recreation and Park Association