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.

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

#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 Maintainence
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.

Adapted from the National Recreation and Park Association