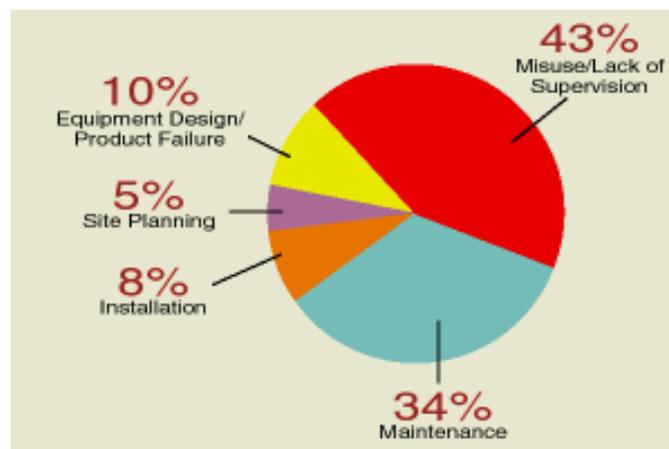


SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION / INSPECTION

Kids play hard and that means they're going to occasionally skin an elbow or bruise a shin. Make safety a top priority to eliminate the risk of more serious mishaps. The National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS) tracks a variety of statistics related to playground injuries, including:

- More than 200,000 preschool and elementary children receive emergency department care for playground-related injuries every year.
- Nearly 70% of all injuries occur on public playgrounds.
- Children four and under receive injuries playing on swings more often than any other common play event, while children ages 5-14 are more likely to get hurt using climbing equipment.
- Falls to the surface were a contributing factor in 70% of all injuries.



It is estimated that more than 40% of playground injuries are related to inadequate supervision. While it's impossible to prevent all playground-related injuries, you can reduce the risks with active adult supervision during playtime. This goes far beyond sitting on a bench nearby:

- Supervisors should station themselves adjacent to the structure and anything that moves such as Track Rides and swings.
- All children, regardless of age, require adult supervision. Kids will always find new and inventive – but not necessarily safe – ways to play on or around playground equipment.
- Supervising adults should be able to identify potential hazards, intercede to facilitate play when necessary and be available in case an injury occurs. Equipment should be used appropriately, hand rails are for hands walking decks are for feet, slides are for sliding in a seated position...

- Practice age appropriate grouping: children of similar ages and abilities play together. Younger students should be segregated from older students due to the gap in ability levels as well as the inherent size, speed and strength differences.

PROPER USE OF EQUIPMENT

- **SWINGS:** sit in the center never stand or kneel, hold on with both hands, come to a complete stop before getting off, walk way around swing sets to avoid being hit by other users, one person in one swing at one time.
- **SLIDES:** hold on with both hands while going up the steps one step at a time (never climb up the sliding surface or the frame), ensure no one is in front of the slide before sliding down, go down feet first sitting up one at a time, leave the bottom of the slide immediately after going down.
- **CLIMBING APPARATUS:** always use both hands, be aware of others on the apparatus especially when climbing down, do not overcrowd structures, start at the same end of the apparatus and move in the same direction, stay well behind the person in front and watch for swinging feet(horizontal ladders and bars), never use when equipment is wet.
- **SEESAWS:** sit facing each other (do not lean back), keep a firm grip using both hands, never stand or walk on the board, keep feet out from underneath the board as it descends.

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PLAYGROUND INSPECTION

Site Name		Inspected By	
Playground Area		Date of Inspection	
Site Survey		Recommendations	
Date Any Work Completed			
1. Is the play area free of dangerous features, such as sudden drop-offs, drainage pipes, and ditches?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
2. Is perimeter fencing in good condition, with no gap greater than 2" between fence and ground?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
3. Is the play area, pathways, and entrances free of trip hazards?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
4. Are play equipment platforms, stairs, rungs, matting, or pathways free of defects and slippery materials?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
5. Is the play area free of loose, missing, or broken parts?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
6. Is the play area free of undesirable plants, such as plants with thorns or sap?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
7. Is the play area free of sharp edges?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
8. Are there pests such as insects, rodents, and other vertebrate pests?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

Playground equipment should be inspected regularly using this form. Maintain copies of inspections and deter access to equipment determined to be unsafe until it can be repaired or replaced. Deficiencies noted should be addressed by initiating a work order through the Maintenance Department work order desk: (858)627-7250. Questions regarding this document, or any other safety related concerns, should be addressed to the safety office at (858)637-3698.