Welcome to CCEI110B

This course identifies common outdoor injuries and appropriate ways to prevent them. Participants will learn about major factors in playground safety and best practices for avoiding a variety of outdoor hazards.

Course Objectives:

By taking notes on the handout and successfully answering assessment questions, participants will meet the following objectives as a result of taking this course:

- Identify common causes of outdoor injuries
- Identify effective practices for preventing outdoor injuries
- Identify major factors in playground safety, including surfacing, overall design, maintenance, and supervision
- Identify potentially hazardous environmental factors, including plants, insects, and toxic fumes
- Identify important water safety practices
- Identify basic preventative strategies, including transitions, setting limits, avoiding distractions while supervising, and preparing for the unexpected

Outdoor Injuries

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics:

Playground Safety and the Physical Environment

Record important facts and practices related to each of the following topics:

Surface

Concrete

Grass

Define fall zone:
List acceptable forms of protective surfacing:

Playground Design

List 6 items that are not recommended for use on playgrounds designed for young children ages 2–5:

What is a blind spot?

Additional Design Issues

Briefly discuss the dangers of each of the following hazards:

Suspended hazards

Tripping hazards

Entrapment hazards

Crush points, pinch points, and shearing points
Corners, edges, and sharp points

Strangulation hazards

**Design Issues Related to Specific Equipment**

Briefly discuss the dangers of each of the following types of playground equipment:

**Swings**

The following swings are not recommended (list 3):

**Horizontal Ladders and Bars**

**Slides**

**Climbers**

**Playground Maintenance**

*Checklists*
The *General Maintenance Checklists* are available as a Course Aide at the end of this handout. Please consider incorporating them into your center’s safety and maintenance program.

**Supervision**

Adequate supervision can eliminate most playground accidents. Supervision is one safety factor that is controlled entirely by the teacher. Supervision is one of the top priorities for early childhood teachers, and young children should never be allowed on the playground without direct adult supervision.

Why is *interaction just as important as observation*?

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**Poisons, Toxins, Allergies, and Other Potential Health Hazards**

**Exposure to Poisonous Plants**

Explain the dangers of the following with regard to plants and young children:

Ingestion:

**Allergic reactions:**

Ways to avoid plant poisoning include (list 6 methods):

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**Explain the potential dangers of:**

Exposure to Toxic Fumes
Exposure to Insects

The Sun

Water Safety
Even if children can swim, they must know and practice good swimming rules, including (list 4):

Reminder
In many states, using any type of pool during water play activities is prohibited, even if children are not expected to get in the pool. Check your local regulations before implementing water activities involving pools.

Safety Strategies
Record important notes related to each of the following strategies for ensuring outdoor safety:

Transitioning to Outdoors

Setting Limits

Dealing with Distractions
Engaging Children

Preparing for the Unexpected

References:


General Maintenance Checklist

*Safety and maintenance checks should be performed regularly in order to ensure that teachers, not children, are the first to discover hazards on the playground.*

**Surfacing**
- The equipment has adequate surface under and around equipment (see state requirements)
- Loose-fill protective covering is free from foreign objects and debris
- Loose-fill protective covering is not compacted (should not be hard or non-absorbent)

**General Hazards**
- No sharp points and edges on equipment
- All protective caps and plugs are in place
- No dangerous protrusions and projections
- No entrapment or strangulation hazards
- No trip hazards or pinch, crush or shearing points

**Wear-and-Tear**
- No dangerous rust, cracks, or splinters
- No broken or missing components
- Equipment is properly anchored

**Hardware**
- Fasteners (bolts, screws, etc.) are not loose or worn
- Bearings on spinning, rotating, or other moving parts are in good working condition

**Drainage**
- Playground has proper drainage. No standing water under swings or in high-traffic areas.

**General Upkeep**
- The playground is free of litter and debris
There are no missing trash receptacles
Trash receptacles are emptied on a regular basis

**Barriers and Gates**
No holes or damaged sections in the fence
Latches and hinges on gates are in good working order