Welcome to CCEI110BP1

In this practical application workshop, participants will use a checklist and other information to evaluate the safety of the outdoor play area at a child care center. In addition, participants will demonstrate knowledge of outdoor safety guidelines by suggesting ways to improve the outdoor play environment. These concepts were presented in CCEI110B – Outdoor Safety in the Early Childhood Setting. You may want to do a quick review of this course and/or refer to your course notes.

Course Objectives:

By reviewing the information in this course, completing the observations, and successfully responding to assessment questions, participants will meet the following objectives:

- Identify basic safety principles regarding design, maintenance, surface, and supervision
- Identify safety hazards in the outdoor play area
- Evaluate outdoor safety practices at a child care center

References:


Course Notes

Use this space to record important information from the course slides:

Design
Observation Activities

The following observations should assist you with evaluating the outdoor play area. To complete the observation activities, you will need to:

- Observe your center’s outdoor play areas using the safety checklist
- Measure the absorbent ground cover on the playground
- Review your center’s existing outdoor safety checklist and/or policies
- Observe a teacher supervising a class outdoors
- Complete the questions on the handout

These observations will take at least 30 minutes to complete, and may take several days for maximum learning and application. Please log out of the workshop, make your observations, answer the questions that follow, and then log in again to enter your findings in the space provided in the course.

**Observation Activity 1**

Use the checklist below to evaluate your outdoor play area. Place a check mark in the space if there is no hazard. Place an X in the space if there is a hazard, and write a note describing the hazard and whether or not your were able to correct it on the spot or if further repair is needed.
Outdoor Safety Checklist

Deterioration of Equipment
   ____ Check for rust, cracks or splinters.
   ____ Look for broken or missing components.
   ____ Ensure that equipment is adequately anchored.

Drainage
   ____ Check under swings and other heavy use areas for proper drainage.

General Hazards
   ____ Check for sharp points and edges on equipment.
   ____ Check that all protective caps and plugs are in place.
   ____ Check for protrusions and projections.
   ____ Ensure that there are no entrapment or strangulation hazards.
   ____ Look for tripping hazards, along with pinch, crush, or shearing points.

Playground
   ____ The playground is free of litter and debris.
   ____ Trash receptacles are in appropriate locations
   ____ Trash receptacles are properly emptied.

Hardware
   ____ Ensure that no fastener is loose or worn.
   ____ Make sure that the bearings on equipment are properly working.

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, making it hard and non-absorbent.
   ____ Protective covering is proper depth.

Observation Activity #2
Observe another teacher as he or she supervises children on the playground. Use the following space to keep notes as you observe:
A. Dangerous or inappropriate activities by children:

B. Teacher's location and activity:

Was the teacher distracted at any time?

C. Teacher interactions with children:
D. Recommendations for teacher:

**Observation Activity #3**

Review your center's existing outdoor safety checklist. Does the checklist cover all the essential aspects of outdoor safety, including elements of design, maintenance, and ground cover? If your center does not have a safety checklist, work with your director to make a plan for creating one. All centers should have outdoor safety checklists!

**Practical Application Exercises**

Use the following space to draft responses to the following short-answer questions. Then, log into the course and enter your final responses for review by the Education Coach.

1) List all the equipment that you inspected on the playground. What type(s) of material is the equipment made of? Did you find any rust, splinters, or other possible signs of corrosion? What can be done to correct this? What other potential hazards did you find during your inspection and what can be done to eliminate them?

2) What type of absorbent ground cover did you observe on the playground? Is there adequate ground cover in areas in which children are likely to fall, such as near slides and swings?

3) Using the completed chart from your handout, answer the following questions about the teacher you observed. Combine your answers into a single paragraph about your observation.
   - What was the most dangerous activity on the playground? If there were no dangerous activities, discuss how the teacher avoided any potentially dangerous activities.
   - Where was the teacher located and what was he or she doing?
   - How did the teacher interact with the children? Was the teacher aware of everything going on at all times? If not, describe ways in which the teacher was distracted.
Other recommendations for teacher:

4) Write a short essay describing your center’s outdoor safety checklist and procedures. How is the checklist organized? What inspections are performed daily? Weekly? Annually? What additional procedures or resources are in place at your center to ensure safety? How much training or guidance do teachers receive regarding outdoor safety? Also, describe any areas in which you feel your center needs to improve its outdoor safety procedures.

5. Think about your own outdoor supervision techniques. In what ways could your playground supervision be improved?