

Resilient Playgrounds
Playground Safety Checklist
Doll & Brehm, In press

- The playground has clearly defined boundaries
- It is located away from traffic or, at a minimum, there are high fences separating the playground from traffic
- There is a direct walkway from the school onto the playground
- Children do not walk across roads or parking lots to get to the playground
- The playground is free of hazards like potholes, large rocks, broken glass, other hazardous waste
- Any grates or drainage culverts are well marked
- Playground equipment does not have
 - sharp edges that could cut,
 - moving parts that could pinch or crush,
 - overhangs that could cause impact injuries, or
 - openings that could entrap
- Any climbing equipment has been designed to prevent children from jumping off
- The playground surfaces are soft and shock-absorbing to cushion children during falls
- And playground surfaces are heat deflecting so that they will not burn children, even on hot and sunny days
- Swings are made from soft fabric and spaced so that other children do not readily walk in the path of moving swings
- Sports fields are spaced so that other children are not accidentally hit by balls or other equipment from the game
- Goal posts and boundaries are padded and flexible to avoid impact injuries
- There are places on the playground that are shaded from the sun
- There are clear safety rules that prohibit unsafe play on the playground
- All playground supervisors know and enforce the safety rules
- All students receive direct instruction in the safety rules

Portions of this checklist were adapted from Moore, R. (2006). Playgrounds: The 150 year old model. In H. Frumkin, R. J. Geller, I. L. Rubin, & J. Nodvin (Eds.), *Safe and health school environments* (pp. 86-103). New York: Oxford University Press, Inc.