

Playground Fall Prevention Information for Parents

fallfreezone



PLAY

Injuries are the leading cause of death in New York State (NYS) for children ages 1 to 19 years.

How many children are injured because of a fall?

- Falls are the leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits in NYS for children ages 14 and under, and the second leading cause of injury for children ages 15 to 19.
- Hospitals treat an average of over 106,000 fall-related injuries in children under 19 each year in NYS.

Data – Playground Injuries

Each day in NYS:

- An average of 16 children younger than 14 years are treated at a hospital for an injury sustained from falling off playground equipment; an average of one child was injured severely enough to require hospitalization.

Preventing Playground Falls

Children and Teens Ages 14 Years and Younger

- Supervise young children while using playground equipment.
- Allow children to play only on sturdy equipment that is in good physical shape.
 - Check for signs of rust, chipped paint, and cracked, broken or sharp parts.

Preventing Playground Falls

Children and Teens Ages 14 Years and Younger

- Make sure areas under and around the playground equipment are covered with soft materials which will help protect children from injuries to the brain and bones if they fall.
 - Acceptable playground surface materials include rubber mulch, hardwood chips, shredded rubber, sand, pea gravel, and safety-tested rubber.

Preventing Playground Falls

Children and Teens Ages 14 Years and Younger

- Young children (those under the age of 32 months) should never go down a slide on the lap of an adult.
 - This puts the child at risk for breaking a leg.
 - Children should not use slides until they can do so on their own.

For More Information

- American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons – Playground Safety Checklist (www.orthoinfo.aaos.org)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (www.healthychildren.org)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov)
- Home Safety Council (www.homesafetycouncil.org)
- National Safety Council
(www.nsc.org/resources/factsheets/hl/playground_safety.aspx)
- Safe Kids USA (www.safekids.org)
- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (www.cpsc.gov)

Questions?

Contact Us!

Enter your organization's contact information here.