Playground Fall Prevention Information for Parents
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.