

# Public Playground Safety Checklist

Here are 10 important tips for parents and community groups to keep in mind to help ensure playground safety.

- 1** Make sure *surfaces* around playground equipment have at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand, or pea gravel, or are mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials.
- 2** Check that protective *surfacing extends* at least 6 feet in all directions from play equipment. For swings, be sure surfacing extends, in back and front, twice the height of the suspending bar.
- 3** Make sure play structures more than 30 inches high are *spaced* at least 9 feet apart.
- 4** Check for *dangerous hardware*, like open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends.
- 5** Make sure *spaces* that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs, measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.
- 6** Check for *sharp points or edges* in equipment.
- 7** Look out for *tripping hazards*, like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.
- 8** Make sure elevated surfaces, like platforms and ramps, have *guardrails* to prevent falls.
- 9** Check *playgrounds regularly* to see that equipment and surfacing are in good condition.
- 10** *Carefully supervise children* on playgrounds to make sure they're safe.

For additional copies, write: Playground Checklist, CPSC, Washington, DC 20207; call CPSC's toll-free hotline at 1-800-638-2772; or visit CPSC's web site at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).