



Playground Signage

Playgrounds that are installed according to the manufacture’s specifications and standards can still present hazards to children. It can be expected that some children will use equipment in unintended and unexpected ways.

While signage may not prevent injuries, it does warn supervisors of the potential hazards. Consider the following factors below before posting signage:

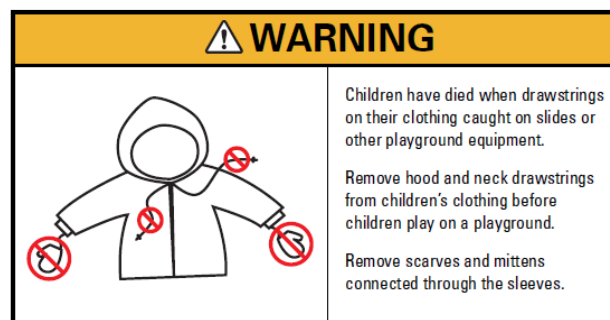
Supervision

“Adult supervision is required” informs the caregiver that the playground is not intended for unsupervised play. This should be placed on the gate or entrance to a park, if enclosed by a fence or defined by landscaping. If the playground is open, prominently post in multiple areas (12 o’clock, 4 o’clock and 8 o’clock), where other signs are present.

Strangulation Warning

Drawstrings on the hoods of jackets, sweatshirts and other clothing can become entangled in playground equipment. To avoid this risk

- Children should not wear jewelry, jackets with drawstring hoods, mittens connected by strings through the arms or other clothing with drawstrings.
- Remove any ropes, dog leashes or similar objects that have been attached to playground equipment. Children can become entangled in them and strangle to death.
- Avoid equipment with ropes that are not secured at both ends.
- The following label or similar sign should be placed where caregivers can see the sign before the child plays on the equipment:



Age Range



It should be obvious which playground equipment is intended for each age group (6-24 months, Preschool 2 -5 years, grade school (5-12 years). However, proper signage posted in the playground area or on the equipment should provide sufficient guidance to supervisors as to the age appropriateness of the equipment.

Surfacing Warning

This warning sign advises caregiver to check equipment and/or surfacing before use. Some dark colored surface materials exposed to the sun have caused blistering on bare feet. The same is true for platforms, slides or steps made of metal. Provide warning that equipment and surfacing exposed to intense sun can burn.

Tot Seat

There have been incidents resulting in severe injury and even death from children and adults using the full bucket seat swings, also known as “tot seats”. These swings are designed for children ***under 4 years of age, used with adult assistance***. As a best practice, post a sign near the full bucket seat swings only, to avoid age-conflicting information for the other belt seats.

Location of Signs

Placement of signs should be well thought out. They should be readily visible and alert the caregiver in time to act. Posted on the equipment or freestanding, each sign should be at adult eye level.

References

Consumer Product Safety Commission – [Public Playground Safety Handbook](#) (December 2015)
Playground Professionals – (www.playgroundprofessionals.com)

This Alliant Risk Control Consulting fact sheet is not intended to be exhaustive. The discussion and best practices suggested herein should not be regarded as legal advice. Readers should pursue legal counsel or contact their insurance providers to gain more exhaustive advice.