

Key Points to Providing Safe Playground Supervision

- **Nationwide 200,000** children visit the emergency room each year due to injuries sustained on the playground (Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2006).
- **Nationwide 80%** of elementary school injuries every school year happen on the playground (Thompson & Bruya, 1995).
- **84%** of all playground accidents could be avoided through two activities: adult supervision and proper playground maintenance (National Playground Safety Institute).

Portland Public Schools is committed to the safety of every child we serve, mentor, and educate. While the majority of this education occurs in the classroom, the playground serves as a tool for activity and learning.

The likelihood of injury is dramatically increased once a student enters the playground. In reported accidents, Portland Public Schools had 391 reported student injuries on playgrounds in 2010. We see a gamut of injuries from slips, trips and falls, to fractures, concussions, and even in one case the ingestion of poisonous berries!

- Develop playground rules. Example: Tag games should be played in the grassy area away from the equipment; children can use slides by going down feet first; fences, trees, lampposts, and other site amenities should not be used as climbing equipment.
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