

PLAYGROUND SAFETY GUIDELINES

Teachers and volunteers who work with children at church or in childcare centers should establish guidelines and be consistent in following the guidelines each time a child comes to church.

1. Teachers will instruct children on safe play before going outdoors and see that the children maintain safe play while on the playground.
2. Teachers will read and be trained on proper SAFE outdoor play.
3. All teachers and workers will be consistent in following SAFE play guidelines each time a child or children are on the playground.
4. A teacher will remain by the swings keeping children from walking in front of or behind the swings.
5. Workers should remain off the equipment.
6. Fanny packs with first-aid kits or another type of first-aid kit will be on the playground each time the playground is in use. Check with your local Red Cross for first-aid kit contents.
7. Teachers will wear disposable gloves when wiping noses, handling scrapes and cuts, or handling any bodily fluids.
8. Children are taken to and from the playground in an orderly manner. Example: Provide a long piece of rope. Select several colorful stretch hair bands. Attach the bands along the rope at least two feet apart. Invite each child to hold his or her favorite color band as they make a line along the stretched out rope. One teacher will hold one end of the rope and lead the children while another teacher holds the other end of the rope and follows the children.
9. Boxes of tissue and trash receptacles are strategically placed around the playground.
10. Children are not permitted on the playground unless trained teachers or leaders are supervising the playground.

Material adapted from *Oklahoma Baptists Protecting Children* by Sheri Babb and *Steps to Take to Protect Mississippi's Children* by Don Hicks, Robin Keels and Linda Reeves. Edited by: Cindy Campbell, Sue Harmon and Cindy Morris