

# **Catholic Mutual... "CARES"**

## **SCHOOL SAFETY**

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE PLAYGROUND**

#### **Administrator (Principal)**

This guideline has been developed to provide assistance in establishing sound practices for the supervision of youngsters involved in playground activities. These activities fulfill several important functions within the overall school curriculum:

1. A means of helping youngsters develop needed motor skills.
2. A healthy release for pent-up, nervous energy.
3. A valuable, social learning experience.

The administrative leader is responsible for seeing that safe practices minimize the accident potential in all areas of the playground.

The following list of recommendations is intended for use by the playground supervisor. This material is designed to help detect safety problems on the playground and increase safety awareness.

#### **Be Aware of Common Hazards**

1. Check the playground equipment daily.
2. Look for danger from broken glass, jagged metal, or other debris on playground areas.
3. Look for tripping hazards from defective sprinkler heads, holes, tree roots, or misplaced gardening equipment.
4. Look for loose fastenings, worn, and broken parts on equipment.
5. Look for thinning of cushioning material under playground equipment.

#### **Most Common Exposures to Accidents**

1. Falls, particularly from slides, bars, and climbing apparatus.
2. Being struck by moving equipment or thrown balls.
3. Cuts from rough edges or protruding bolts on playground equipment.

## **General School Grounds Practices**

1. Report all safety hazards or potential safety hazards to your school principal.
2. Report all defects in facilities or equipment such as loose or cracked steps to slide, damaged sprinkler heads, etc.
3. Make sure that sand in sandboxes is clean and free of debris. Ensure that sand does not get scattered onto the asphalt playing area where it could cause a slipping hazard.
4. Give proper instruction in the use of all equipment. Do not allow students to use equipment in such a manner that injuries may occur.
5. Do not allow students to use playing areas for inappropriate activities.
6. Vehicle access to the play area should be restricted to ensure everyone's safety.
7. The ratio of playground supervisors to children should be a ratio of an average class size to one adult. The exact ratio should be set based upon the type of playground equipment and the physical layout of the playground. Keep in mind, there should always be at least 2 adults on the playground at all times, even for a smaller number of children.

## **General Safe Practices**

1. No rough-housing or chasing should be permitted.
2. No games such as tag should be played on or near equipment.
3. No throwing of debris on the playground area should be allowed.
4. Children should only be permitted to use equipment designed for their age group.
5. Only those using or waiting to use equipment should be in the designated area.
6. Children should not be permitted to play near classroom windows.