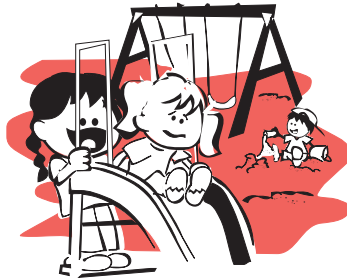


How Did the **Playground Do?**

- All boxes are checked.** The playground has passed the YES Test. Repeat the YES Test on a regular basis, at least once a month.
- Not all boxes are checked.** The playground may not be safe.

Here are possible next steps:

- If you own or operate the playground, make a step-by-step plan to increase safety. You may need to replace equipment, improve protective surfacing, or increase supervision. Seek professional help if you need it.
- If you do not own or operate the playground, share your concerns with its owner or operator. For example, if the playground is in a community park, contact the municipality.

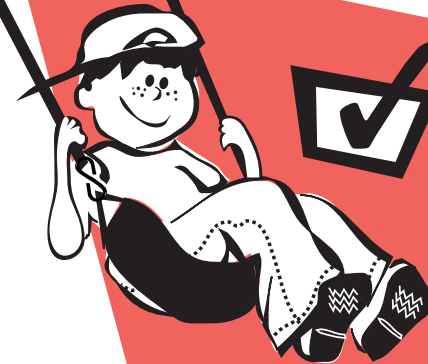


For more information contact Health Link Alberta:

In Calgary area at **403-943-LINK (5465)**
In Edmonton area at **780-408-LINK (5465)**
Toll-free in Alberta **1-866-408-LINK (5465)**
or visit **www.healthlinkalberta.ca**

Take the playground safety **YES** test

Playground **Safety Checklist**



Safe playgrounds help reduce the risk of injury to children. The YES Test is a quick and easy way to check the safety of an outdoor playground.

Take the YES test by reviewing the list of items on the following pages. If you cannot answer YES to every item, the playground may need repairs or upgrades.

What you need:





This YES Test helps you to check that the play area, the playground surfacing, and the equipment are all ready for safe play.

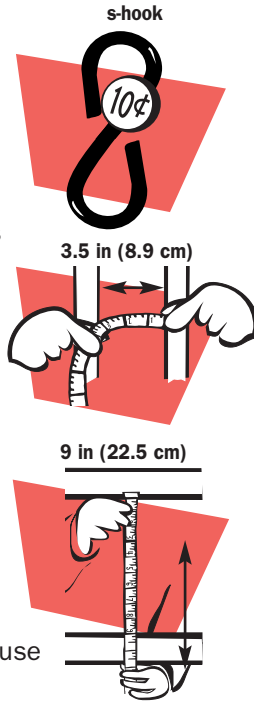
This test does not cover everything about playground safety. To find out more, see the contact information on the back cover.

The Play Area

- There are no trip hazards in the play area, like tree stumps, rocks, or exposed concrete footings.
- There are no dangerous objects in the play area, like litter, broken glass, or needles.

The Equipment

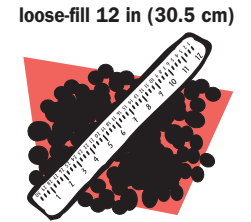
- There are no open gaps that could catch loose clothing and lead to strangulation. For example, s-hooks, often used to connect swing seats to chains, should only allow a dime to pass through the gaps.
- There are no openings greater than 3.5 in (8.9 cm) and less than 9 in (22.5 cm). Spaces of this size are entrapment hazards because they allow a child's body to go through but trap the head, like improperly adjusted guard rails or ladder rungs.
- There are no ropes of any kind tied to equipment. Ropes can cause strangulation.
- Raised surfaces like platforms and ramps greater than 20 in (50.8 cm) have handrails, barriers, and/or railings to prevent falls.
- There are no sharp edges or points on the equipment that could cut or scrape, like sharp bolt ends.
- The equipment is in good working order, does not have broken or missing parts, and is well anchored to the ground.



The Surfacing Under & Around Equipment

Protective surfacing is a soft surface that helps to cushion falls. Grass and dirt are NOT protective surfaces.

- Loose fill surfacing (e.g., pea gravel, sand, rubber crumb) OR rubber surfacing is used under and around all pieces of equipment.
- If loose-fill surfacing is used, it is at least 8 – 12 in (20.3 – 30.5 cm) deep. There is one exception to this rule: if rubber crumb is used, it is at least 5 in (15.2 cm) deep.
- Equipment that does not move, like a slide, is surrounded by protective surfacing at least 6 ft (1.8 m) in all directions.



- Swings require protective surfacing that is twice the height of the swing beam in the front and back.

As a parent or caregiver, you can use the following tips to help promote playground safety:



- Actively supervise – stay nearby, pay close attention, and anticipate risks.
- Encourage children to use playground equipment that fits their age and stage of development. Pre-school age children and elementary school-age children need different types of equipment.
- Ensure that kids are dressed for safe play – **with** footwear, and **without** helmets, clothes with drawstrings, scarves, or loose hair or clothing.
- Teach children to play safely.