

SOUTHWEST HRA HEAD START

Section: Early Childhood Development
Subject: Outdoor Play and Materials
Revised: May, 2003; February 2010

REGULATION REFERENCE:

45 CFR Part 1304 (Nov. 1996) Performance Standards 1304.21(a)(5)(i), 1304.53(a)(10)(x)
NAEYC Guide to Accreditation by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs
Tennessee Department of Human Services Licensing Regulations

POLICY:

The daily schedule will include a minimum of 45 minutes of outdoor play. Along with the permanent structures on the playground, there will be an assortment of equipment that children can take to the playground. When inclement weather prohibits outdoor play, teachers will plan gross motor activities in each interest center.

PROCEDURE:

1. Each day, the teaching team will assist children in taking designated materials to the playground and in returning the materials to the appropriate storage area.
2. Teachers will wear a whistle to the playground. The whistle is blown in emergency situations to get the attention of all the children quickly.
3. Teachers will take facial tissues, baby wipes, and baggies for disposing of tissues and wipes, to the playground. These are stored in each teacher's apron carry-all, fanny pack or teacher's jacket pockets.
4. Some classroom experiences can be provided in outdoor environments with proper preparation and materials. Examples: Easel painting, music experiences with tape recorder, snack time, story time, etc.
5. The following items are recommended for use on the playground:
 - a. Wheeled toys: wagons and tricycles of varying sizes.
 - b. Balls of various sizes and textures.
 - c. Large bats designed for young children.

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- d. Jump ropes and hoops of various sizes.
- e. Basketball goals with basketballs
- f. Tossing games: ring toss, horse shoes, and bean bag toss.
- g. Boxes and crates made of wood, cardboard, or plastic. These can be used in obstacle courses, painted, stacked, climbed in, and otherwise used by children in many ways.
- h. Sand and water play tubs with accessories: plastic cups, bowls, buckets, shovels, strainers, and other containers are appropriate. **Permanent sand play outside is prohibited.**
- i. Parachutes.