

# SOUTHWEST HRA HEAD START

**Section:** Early Childhood Development  
**Subject:** Playground Daily Safety Check  
**Revised:** February, 1998; February, 2010

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## REGULATION REFERENCE:

45 CFR Part 1304 (Nov. 1996) Performance Standards 1304.22(d), 1304.53(a)(7-9)  
Consumer Product Safety Commission "Handbook for Public Playground Safety"; Tennessee  
Department of Human Services Licensure Rules for Child Care Centers: 1240-4-3-.12(9)(c)(2),  
(3), (4), and (5).

## POLICY:

Teachers will conduct daily safety checks of the outdoor play environment and equipment and will assure that hazards are eliminated before children are allowed on the playground.

## PROCEDURE:

1. Each day, before children are taken to the playground, the teacher will inspect the playground and equipment for the following hazards and will take the action specified. NOTE; Teachers should take a trash bag (recycled grocery bag) when inspecting the playground:
  - a. Trash, glass, or sticks on ground--remove before children play.
  - b. Wasp nests - spray nest to kill wasps, immediately store spray away from children.
  - c. Fire ants - warn children to avoid ants, report to Area Manager.
  - d. Depth of pea-gravel in high traffic areas should be approximately 6" deep--rake or push gravel back into area when necessary.
  - e. Broken equipment or vandalism - keep children away from hazard, report to Area Manager.
  - f. Loose hardware - if possible, tighten hardware. If still loose, keep children away from hazard, report to Area Manager.
  - g. Animal wastes—remove with shovel and trash bag.
2. If hazards noted can be immediately corrected, such as trash in the area, wasp nests, or raking gravel back into high traffic areas, the teacher will remove the hazard before allowing children to play in the area.
3. If hazards noted cannot be immediately corrected, such as broken equipment, fire ants, or overall need for addition of pea-gravel, the teacher will prevent children's access to the hazard.
4. Teaching staff will document the above inspection procedures by using the following form: "Daily Playground Inspection Report." This inspection and report meet Tennessee Department of Human Services Licensure Rules for Child Care Centers rules: 1240-4-3.12(9)(c)(2), (3), (4), and (5)—pages 55 and 56 in the Licensure book.