

## **PLAYGROUND SAFETY**

Place this list in a prominent area of your home for quick reference. Then, before your children head out the door for the playground, check to make certain that the following are verified:

□ ***ADULT SUPERVISION***

Adult presence is needed to watch for potential hazards, observe, intercede and facilitate play when necessary. Strings on clothing or ropes used for play can cause accidental strangulation if caught on equipment.

□ ***AGE-APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT***

Preschoolers, ages 2 - 5, and children ages 5 - 12, are developmentally different and need different equipment located in separate areas to keep the playground safe and fun for all.

□ ***CUSHIONED SURFACES***

Nearly 70 percent of all playground injuries are related to falls to the surface. Acceptable surfaces include hardwood fiber/mulch, pea gravel, sand and synthetic materials such as poured-in-place, rubber mats or tiles. Playground surfaces should not be concrete, asphalt, grass, blacktop, packed dirt or rocks.

□ ***SAFE EQUIPMENT***

Check to make sure the equipment is anchored safely in the ground, all equipment pieces are in good working order, S-hooks are entirely closed, bolts are not protruding, there are no exposed footings, etc. In addition, parents should check for unsafe equipment and conditions that create a danger or risk of harm to children. Such items include: ropes or strings which are strangulation risks; hot surfaces on playground equipment that might burn children; cracking or splintering of wood equipment; observe equipment for possible “pinch points,” such as see-saws and merry-go-rounds.

□ ***SECURE FENCING / ENCLOSED AREA***

Parks and playgrounds should be properly enclosed or fenced to prevent children from running into nearby traffic.