

HURON PLAYSCHOOL CO-OPERATIVE INC.

Playground Policy (Revised October 26, 2010)

Huron Playschool Co-operative, through the staff and the active involvement of parents, provides a safe and nurturing outdoor environment where children are encouraged to develop their creative and constructive capacities through play.

Huron Playschool will supervise the outdoor time with no less than a 1 to 8 ratio of staff to children at all times. (2 parents may replace one staff person) The outdoor program will continue in Washington park on a daily basis. We do not use the climbers or other equipment in Washington Park and only play in the sandbox and on the grassy area.

There is a first aid kit in the Playschool backpack as well as tissues and sanitizer.

While we are in Washington park the staff and parents will ensure that:

- The gate is checked on a regular basis to ensure that it is closed.
- The children are playing away from the fence line
- That the staff are able to see the children at all times
- That the children are playing on the grassy area or in the sandbox.
- That a head count is done on a regular basis.

Note: When parents arrive at the park they are immediately responsible for their child. Children are officially signed out at 11:45, but it is important for parents to understand that the Teacher (and co-operating parents) are no longer responsible for your child once you arrive.

Our daily checklist

Playground checklist confirms that we have checked the sandbox (raked it on Mondays), that the gate is closed and that the grassy area is free of garbage.

This policy is reviewed with the families once per year.

Other Safety Rules for Parks

From time to time we might take a trip to another park to play on the climbers. When we arrive at a Park the following checks will occur.

- Check under and around the equipment for broken glass, discarded needles, animal feces etc. Remove all unwanted material carefully and dispose of it in a safe manner.
- Check the equipment and remove any ropes or skipping ropes tied to the equipment. These can strangle children.
- Look for broken or vandalized equipment. It may be unsafe for the children to play on.
- Check for hazards like loose bolts, exposed concrete, shallow protective surfacing. Report unsafe conditions immediately to the City of Toronto.
- In the summer, check metal slides to ensure they are not too hot to play on. On sunny days, in full sun, metal can burn young skin quickly.
- Make sure children remove their bike helmets before playing on the structure.
- In winter watch out for ice. The protective surfacing that works well in warm weather won't do the job of absorbing an impact if it is ice covered. Keep children off the equipment when there is an ice build up.
- Active supervision – Keep your eye on all the children and move through the play area regularly.
- Teach children there are rules to follow on the playground. Preschoolers should be able to learn up to three rules. In the event of a serious accident, report immediately to the City of Toronto to make them aware of the incident.

Adult Supervision is Essential

- ✓ Loose clothing, hats with chin straps, cords on hoods, ponchos, scarves and jewellery can get caught on equipment. Make sure that the children are dressed safely.
- ✓ Children, especially preschoolers need constant supervision. They should never be left alone on play structures. Older children often try to make equipment more challenging and use it in unexpected and unintended ways. They may take bigger risks as they develop their physical skills. Young children will try and copy them but may not have the skill to stay safe.
- ✓ Teach the children how to play safe. Here are a few rules to follow. (As adults we should know all of the rules below, however the children will need reminders from time to time.)
 - ❖ Remember to be gentle with friends – no pushing, shoving or horse play.

- ❖ Walk around swings and other moving equipment.
- ❖ Keep your fingers away from moving parts.
- ❖ Feet first down the slide and climb up the stairs
- ❖ Only play when the structure and you are dry.
- ❖ Always hold onto handrails
- ❖ Friends are fun but be careful that the equipment doesn't have too many friends at once.
- ❖ Swings are for sitting.
- ❖ Children must climb on their own so that they do not climb higher than their ability. Adults should be near in case children need assistance.