

MARC Head Start Safe Environments Checklist Outdoor Environment

Place an M for Met Expectations and C for Concern Observed in the box when you observe evidence of each of the items listed. N/O can be used for Not Observed and N/A can be used for Not Applicable. Describe any problems or concerns you witness in the comment section.

Tier 3-Checklist results must be reviewed with delegate staff person responsible for safe environments: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Site:

M/C

Comments

Reviewer:

Date:

| Active Play Areas | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| Does the site have a fenced outdoor play area? 19 CSR 30-62.082(6)(A)(1) 19 CSR 30-62.092(3)(B) HSPPS 1302.21(d)(2) CFOC 6.1.0.8 | | |
| Are there at least 75 square feet of usable outdoor space per child? Is space for EHS children separate from that used for older children? 19 CSR 30-62.08(6)(A)(2) HSPPS 1302.21(d)(2) | | |
| Does the program ensure that outdoor premises are cleaned daily and kept free of toxins, smoke, lead and other hazardous conditions? <i>(no broken glass & other trash or dangerous debris. No vandalism/damage to equipment. Free of splitting or rotting wood)</i> 19 CSR 30-62.082(6)(A)(1) HSPPS 1302.47(b)(1)(iii) CFOC 6.2.5.1 | | |
| Are outdoor play areas fully fenced and arranged such that no child can leave the premises or get in to unsafe or unsupervised areas? <i>(Observe outdoor play areas when children are present. Are children supervised in the play area at all times? How do staff work around any "blind spot" to ensure they can see all of the children?)</i> Are the fence and gate in good working condition and not damaged? Is the fence bottom no higher than 3 inches above the ground? 19 CSR 30-62.082(6)(A)(1) CFOC 6.1.0.8 | | |
| Are there trip hazards, such as exposed footings or anchoring devices and rocks, roots, or any other obstacles in use zone? 19 CSR 30-62.082(1)(A) HSPPS 1302.47(b)(1)(iii) CPSC 3.6 | | |

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| Is there water available for drinking and first aid near the play area? 19 CSR 30-62.202(1)(L) HSPPS 1302.44(a)(2)(ix) CFOC 4.2.0.6 | | |
| Do outdoor facilities enable the safe and effective participation of children with disabilities? 19CSR 30-62.092(3)(B) HSPPS 1302.31(b)(iv) | | |
| Equipment | | |
| Is the playground equipment in good repair (<i>e.g., no broken or missing parts, free of sharp edges and/or splinters, no protrusion of nuts and bolts, no rust and chipping or peeling paint and adequately secured to the ground</i>)? 19 CSR 30-62.082(1)(A) HSPPS 1302.47(b)(2) CFOC 6.2.5.1 | | |
| Do platforms on playground equipment have appropriate guardrails and barriers? 19 CSR 30-62.082(1)(E) CFOC 5.3.1.1/5.5.0.6/5.5.0.7 | | |
| Playground equipment is free of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noticeable gaps that would create a limb entrapment • Head entrapments-no openings between 3 ¼ and 9 inches that could cause entrapment • Broken parts • Missing parts • Protruding bolts-no more than 2 threads beyond the face of the nut (clothing entanglement hazard) • Rust • Splinters • Cracks/holes • Open “S” hooks (clothing entanglement hazard) • Sharp parts 19 CSR 30-62.092(3)(A)-(J) HSPPS 1302.47(2) CFOC 5.3.1.1/5.5.0.6/5.5.0.7/6.2.5.1 | | |
| Are there potential clothing entanglement hazards, such as open S-hooks or protruding bolts? Are there crush and shearing points on exposed moving parts? <i>Make sure spaces that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs, measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches</i> 19 CSR 30-62.092(3)(F) HSPPS 1302.47(b)(iv) CFOC 5.3.1.1/5.5.0.6/5.5.0.7 | | |
| There are no playground equipment pieces that could catch clothing. There are no strings or loose items on children’s clothing or around children’s necks that could get caught on play equipment. HSPPS 1302.47(b)(2) CPSC 3.2 | | |

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| Are the play equipment pieces spaced at least 12 ft. apart from each other (each has its own 6 foot use space)? HSPPS 1302.47(b)(2) CPSC 5.3.9 | | |
| Does any part of outdoor equipment from which children might fall exceed six feet in height? 19 CSR 30-62.092(3)(E) | | |
| Impact Absorbing Material | | |
| Does impact absorbing surfacing material extend at least 6 feet beyond all sides of the equipment? HSPPS 1302.47(b)(2) CFOC 6.2.3.1 CPSC 5.3.2.1.4 | | |
| Is the playground surface raked and of sufficient depth to minimize injury to children?* (<i>Wood chips and pea gravel require a 9 inch compressed depth – measure to ensure depth is met</i>) 19 CSR 30-62.082(6)(A)(5)&(7) HSPPS 1302.47(b)(2) CFOC 6.2.3.1 CPSC 2.4.2.2 | | |
| Are loose-fill materials under heavy use areas, such as under swings or at slide exits, displaced? 19 CSR 30-62.082(6)(A)(7) HSPPS 1302.47(b)(2)(v) CFOC 6.2.3.1 CPSC 2.4.2.2 | | |

Comments:

Reminder: Form 9030b is available by request and must be completed within the first 30 days of the program year and again by the end of February.

Independent Reviewer Name:

Title & Dept:

Independent Reviewer Signature

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*US Consumer Product Safety Commission

1. Loose-fill materials will compress at least 25% over time due to use and weathering. This must be considered when planning the playground. For example, if the playground will require 9 inches of wood chips, then the initial fill level should be 12 inches. **See Table 2 below.**
2. Loose-fill surfacing requires frequent maintenance to ensure surfacing levels never drop below the minimum depth. Areas under swings and at slide exits are more susceptible to displacement; special attention must be paid to maintenance in these areas. Additionally, wear mats can be installed in these areas to reduce displacement.
3. The perimeter of the playground should provide a method of containing the loose-fill materials.
4. Consider marking equipment supports with a minimum fill level to aid in maintaining the original depth of material.
5. Good drainage is essential to maintaining loose-fill surfacing. Standing water with surfacing material reduces effectiveness and leads to material compaction and decomposition.
6. Critical height may be reduced during winter in areas where the ground freezes.
7. Never use less than 9 inches of loose-fill material except for shredded/recycled rubber (6 inches recommended). Shallower depths are too easily displaced and compacted.
8. Some loose-fill materials may not meet ADA/ABA accessibility guidelines. For more information, contact the Access Board (see §1.6) or refer to ASTM F1951. Wood mulch containing chromated copper arsenate (CCA)-treated wood products should not be used; mulch where the CCA-content is unknown should be avoided (see §2.5.5.1).

Table 2 shows the minimum required depths of loose-fill material needed based on material type and fall height. The depths shown assume the materials have been compressed due to use and weathering and are properly maintained to the given level.

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| Inches | Of | Loose-fill Material | Protects to | Fall Height (feet) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 6* | | Shredded/recycled rubber | | 10 |
| 9 | | Pea Gravel | | 5 |
| 9 | | Wood mulch (non-CCA) | | 7 |
| 9 | | Wood chips | | 10 |
| * Shredded/recycled rubber loose-fill surfacing does not compress in the same manner as other loose-fill materials. However, care should be taken to maintain a constant depth as displacement may still occur. | | | | |

[Table 2.](#)

[Minimum compressed loose-fill surfacing depth](#)