

Playground Management Services

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Problem

- The majority of playgrounds do not do a great job at facilitating imaginative and creative play.
 - Children need more places to hide.
 - Children need high and low areas.
 - Children need more play equipment that promotes fantasy play.

Mission

- To provide the best play ground in our school that facilitates the characteristics of play that were earlier mentioned. We want to show the children a new way were they could express the imaginations be more creative.

What We Offer

- The Reggio Emilia way, Levy's characteristics of play, Functions of play
- New and improve playgrounds that facilitate all children
- Playgrounds with more hiding areas for children to get more imaginative.
- More high and low areas.

What We Offer Cont.

- Making sure there is water in the playground, if not a small pool area.
- More trees in our playground to create more shade
- More flowers
- Water fountains within a reasonable distance from one another.
- Clean restrooms

The Reggio Emilia way

- Three main components
 - 1. the children
 - 2. the teacher
 - 3. the environment.
- Reggio Emilia believes all children have potential and are capable of constructing their own learning (Isbell, n.d)
- Play areas following Reggio Emilia also encourage children to investigate natural phenomena, such as exploring nature in playground. (Hertzog, 2001)
- Children in Reggio Emilia Center are encourage to work in groups and to learn from each other (Savoie, 2001)

Levy's play characteristics are:

(these are also the characteristics we will act by)

- Suspension of reality
- Intrinsic motivation
- Internal locus of control

Function of play

(more characteristics that our company is based by)

- Individuation (Play-dough, legos, dress -up)
- Socialization (group activities, self esteem, board games, sports)
- Enculturation (notion of values)
- Abreaction & Catharsis (school, home work)
- Conceptualization (development of cognition)

New Program

- We feel that through play children are not only playing but they are
- Resolving problems as they play.
- Play tells us about whom the child uniquely is, as a constructor of her life history.
- Who we are as individuals
- Our Development or life histories are important for understanding that we are.

Why is this Important?

- Every child should be able to enjoy their childhood and have an equal opportunity to play.
- Playgrounds that are in cities all across the country are not capable of this now.
- With this program we will create these opportunities for all children to be able to play

Handicap Accessible

- There have been many parents around the country that have started petitions in their own city, county, and state to make all playgrounds handicap accessible.
- In July of 1990, the ADA became law. The intent of the Law was that all Americans have the right to access public services and accommodations. Those in parks and recreation recall putting together an action plan to make their facilities, parks and programs accessible. This was a difficult task, especially in the area of playgrounds, because the law did not give direction to serve as a guide for the design and construction process.



All children deserve
the right to have
fun and be able to
play

Problems with Playgrounds

- Playgrounds are not built as safe as they could be. In the following slides, you will see what it is that makes playgrounds unsafe for children.

Adult Supervision

- Adults play an important role in safety of their children on a playground.
- The adult can:
 - Ensure the child is playing on age appropriate equipment
 - Make sure children are not engaging in unsafe behavior on the equipment
 - Administer any first aid that is needed

Surface

- There needs to be a proper surface on the playground in case a child slips or falls off of the equipment.
- Bad surfaces include:
 - Concrete, asphalt, and blacktop are unsafe surfaces, as well as grass, soil, and packed earth, because weather and wear can reduce their capacities to cushion a fall
 - There should be no puddles of water, rocks, tree stumps, tree roots, broken glass, ect. Which are dangerous for children.

Surface Cont.

- Good Surfaces include:
 - Loosely filled wood chips, mulch, sand, pea gravel and shredded rubber, surfacing mats made of rubber are good also, but they must extend 6 feet out past the play equipment
 - Proper surfacing does not ensure a child will not get hurt. The higher the play equipment is the longer the fall is for the child

Design and Spacing

- Playground equipment should be designed for two different age groups: 2-5 year olds and 5-12 year olds, it is best when these two areas are separated and labeled
- Guardrails and barriers should be on all elevated surfaces, including platforms and ramps
- Structures more than 30" high should be spaced at least 9 feet apart
- Swings and seesaws and other moving parts should be separate from the rest of the playground

Design and Spacing Cont.

- Swings should only be two per bay
- Swings should be spaced at least 24" apart and 30" between a swing and the support frame
- There should be no spaces that could trap a child's head, arm, or other body part
- Ladder rungs should measure less than 3.5" or they should be wider than 9"



Design

- Our designs cater to all of the special needs of children
 - Interactive activities
 - Brail
 - Handicap accessible ramps and swings
 - Colorful encouraging equipment
 - Safe for everyone to play on



This playground as shown above is a sample of a handicap accessible playground that we plan and build.

Maintenance and Inspection

- Equipment should always be checked to make sure it is clean and well maintained
- To help maintain it:
 - There should be no broken equipment
 - Wooden equipment should have no cracks or splinters
 - Fences around playgrounds in public should be in good condition so children cannot run out into traffic
 - Surface should be maintained so it covers all areas of the ground especially in fall zones
 - Always check for hardware that could be sticking out, debris and broken parts on toys

Climbing Equipment Safety

- Climbing equipment includes rock walls, arches, vertical and horizontal ladders. These kinds of equipment have the highest injury rate
 - Too many children on the equipment at once is dangerous
 - Users should start on one side and move in the same direction
 - Pre-Schoolers should only climb 5ft up and school age children should only climb 7ft up
 - Children should never race and they should not try to reach for bars that are too far ahead

Unsafe Playground Equipment

- The following types of equipment are generally unsafe for playgrounds
 - Animal figure swings
 - Glider swings that hold more than one child at a time
 - Swinging ropes that can fray, unravel, or form a noose
 - Exercise rings (as used in gymnastics) and trapeze bars



These playgrounds are unsafe because there is no safety rails, it is made of wood, and there are high platforms that children can fall from and hurt themselves.

Facts

- America's playgrounds are not as safe as we'd like to think. In 2004, the National Program for Playground Safety graded each state on the safety of its playgrounds, awarding an averaged national grade of C+.
- Additionally, a 1999 Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) study found that more than 200,000 children suffered playground injuries serious enough to be seen in an emergency room.

Facts

- Among the CPSC findings:
 - More than three-quarters of injuries (76 percent) occurred on public playground equipment, while 23 percent occurred on home equipment.
 - Of the injuries on public playground equipment, 45 percent occurred on school playgrounds, and 31 percent occurred in public parks.
 - Fifteen percent of injuries were classified as severe.
 - The most common type of injury was fractures (39 percent), most involving the wrist, elbow and lower arm. Lacerations accounted for 22 percent of injuries, contusions or abrasions 20 percent, and strains or sprains 11 percent.
 - Falls to the playground surface were involved in 79 percent of all injuries.

Facts

- Among the CPSC findings:
 - Girls were slightly more likely to be injured (55 percent of injuries) than were boys (45 percent).
 - In children aged 4 and under, the most common injuries (49 percent) were to the head and face. Most of these injuries occurred on climbing equipment and slides.
 - In children ages 5 to 15, the most common injuries (49 percent) were to the arm and hand, and most occurred on climbing equipment and swings.

Facts

- The CPSC also looked at deaths resulting from playground equipment between 1990 and 2000. Of the 147 deaths reported over that period, 90 percent occurred on home playground equipment, and more than half (56 percent) involved hanging, primarily from ropes, shoestrings, cords, leashes, clothing strings, and other items either tied to or entangled with the equipment.

Facts

- Among its conclusions, the CPSC advised conducting further research into which playground surfaces are better suited to minimizing hand, wrist and arm injuries, and which playground equipment should be restricted based on a child's age. The researchers also pointed out that home playground equipment is much less likely than public equipment to be properly anchored or to be built on an adequately protective surface.

Go out and PLAY!

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