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Playground Safety is a Big Priority by Laura Dudley

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Playgrounds need to be safe for all kids at all hours of the day. An elementary school area needs to be supervised at all times. It is not unusual for an accident that causes injury to happen. You wonâ€™t necessarily be able to control an accident. With real supervision, students will at least be kept from breaking any playground rules that keep them safe. Children will be able to enjoy themselves with few to no worries.

Minor injuries are very common on playgrounds. 10 percent of playground injuries, though, need emergency services and treatment. It is important that your teachers are proactive so that serious injuries do not occur. Make sure all students are aware of established rules, and that school supervisors are enforcing them. You can bench and punish any kid who is not following these rules. It is completely acceptable to be overly cautious so that your students can have fun while being safe.

Make sure that your staff is trained in safety for playgrounds. Pass out safety handbooks that provide rules and tips for emergency issues. In training, playground set staff will learn how to stay calm, aware, strict, and consistent. This will help them see inappropriate games and behavior around dangerous school equipment. Schools will want to be sure there are adequate staff for the size of playground and number of students. If you are short on staff, you may want to consider closing sections off that you cannot watch closely. This is one of the best ways to keep your injury numbers low.

You want to avoid being sued as best as possible. Lawsuits are typical when yards are lacking supervision. Lawsuits are brought on mostly because the school is being held for negligence in a severe injury situation. This is usually the only time you will be sued. Lawsuits try to prove that there was little or no supervision. You can prevent lawsuits and injury by being cautious and proactive.

A safe playground is what every student deserves. They need to get outdoors, have excitement, and get some exercise. Children canâ€™t always be relied on to follow the rules. This is where staff members need to come in and be the adults. You must help to make sure they are okay. If your school does not have an outdoor supervisor program, speak to your county school board or find out how you can establish one. They must be provided with the training necessary to keep children safe.

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