

Play Area Equipment – Recommended Ages*

This information is intended to indicate minimum age recommendations for selected pieces of play equipment and is not inclusive of all safety recommendations and requirements. Signage indicating age recommendations and play rules should be placed next to play equipment.

Toddlers
Slides (all incline sections $\leq 30^\circ$ with average $\leq 24^\circ$; platform at least 19 inches deep)
Spring rockers (seat should be between 12 and 16 inches high)
Bucket swings
Preschool (Minimum age 3 - not recommended for toddlers)
Merry-go-rounds (maximum platform height = 14 inches)
Slides (all incline sections $\leq 50^\circ$ with average $\leq 30^\circ$; platform at least 14 inches deep)
Spring rockers (seats between 14 and 28 inches high)
Spring-centered seesaws
Balance beams (maximum height 12 inches)
Horizontal ladders (with rungs evenly spaced, parallel & ≤ 12 inches apart; height ≤ 60 inches)
Bucket swings
Belt or multi-axis swings (minimum age 4)
School Age Children
Overhead rings (not swinging dual exercise rings; maximum height = 60 inches)
Fulcrum seesaws
Balance beams (maximum height 16 inches)
Free standing arch climbers
Free standing flexible climbers
Horizontal ladders (rungs ≤ 15 inches apart, height ≤ 84 inches)
Overhead rings (not swinging dual exercise rings; maximum height = 84 inches)
Sliding vertical poles (firemen poles)
Track rides (handle or device that slides along a track above child's head)
Log Rolls
Merry-go-rounds (maximum platform height = 18 inches)
Swings (belt swings or multi-axis swings recommended)

Equipment not recommended for public play areas
Trampolines
Swinging gates
Wood or metal swings seats
Heavy metal or hard plastic animal swings
Rope swings
Multiple occupancy swings (other than tire swings)
Giant strides
Climbing ropes (that are not secured at both ends)
Swinging dual exercise rings
Trapeze bars
Equipment designed for home play areas (public equipment meets ASTM 1487 standards)

*Information excerpted from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission publication # 325 "Public Playground Safety Handbook", November 2010

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