



## Playground Safety

York Region Community & Health Services Department wants our local playgrounds to be safe places for children to play. Here are some guidelines for playground safety:

### What is the law?

- All outdoor public playgrounds should follow the National Standard of Canada, *CAN/CSA-Z614-07 Children's Playspaces and Equipment*. This is a voluntary standard that has been prepared by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

### Who can you contact if you find a potential hazard or vandalism on the school playground?

- All hazards or acts of vandalism on the school playground should be reported immediately to the school principal.

### How often should the school playground be checked for hazards?

- School Board staff shall inspect the playground area and equipment for obvious hazards daily.

### Who can you contact if a potential hazard is observed at a nearby public playground?

- The local Parks and Recreation Department should be called immediately if a potential hazard is spotted on one of their playgrounds.

### How can we all help?

- Making our playgrounds safe is the responsibility of staff, students and parents/guardians. The following precautions should be taken before using any playground:

#### Check the children

- Remove drawstrings and ropes from the children's clothing.
- Tie up and tuck in scarves, shoe laces and loose clothing.
- Do not allow skipping ropes or other ropes to be tied to any play structure.
- Remove bicycle helmets before entering the playground area.

#### Equipment/Surfacing

- Be observant and report any playground equipment that is showing signs of wear, missing safety rails, vandalism or any hazard to your principal or Parks and Recreation Department.
- Make sure the surface under the playground structure is not compacted. Compacted protective surfacing material will not adequately absorb a child's fall. If found, report this deficiency to your principal or Parks and Recreation Department.

#### Active Supervision

- Active supervision means watching and preventing injuries before they happen.
- Educate children on safe behaviour at the playground area.
- Make sure that children use the appropriate play structure for their age.

**For more information or to speak with a Public Health Inspector,  
please call York Region Health Connection at**

**1-800-361-5653**

**or visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)**