

Large Motor Safety

General large motor safety principles:

Large motor activities are fundamental to the progress of a child's development. Because young children are still working on self-control, proper supervision by caring adults is critical to the safe execution of large motor activities with young children. Every adult must be focused on what is happening when children are using their bodies . It is our responsibility to help them run, jump, climb, ride, rock and roll in a positive, encouraging, safe and fun way.

Adults have experience with the kind of actions that can lead to injury. If you are uncomfortable with the level of energy that is being used for play, trust your judgment and intervene. Slow down the action and suggest a different form of an activity.

You can:

1. Repeat a rule. Say, "Remember the rule is to climb only on the inside of the ladder."
2. Remind about body safety. Say, "Keep your body.. hands.. feet in your own space."
3. Provide direction. Say, "Let me show you the safe way to do that."
4. Offer to help. Say, "It looks like you are really trying to... Would you like me to help you?"
5. Expect children to wait for a turn. Say, "Go to the end of the line to wait."

Rocking horses (1 spotter) monitor **fire pole /back ladder, too.**

1. Check to make sure each horse is adequately spaced from the wall and from each other.
2. Only one rider at a time.
3. Wait by the wall for a turn. The rocking horse can hit you if you stand too close.
4. Rock only hard enough to keep the horses on the floor
5. Avoid bouncing too high.



Stage climber (3-4 spotters) 2 on **each of 2 front ladders and 1 on back with fire** **pole and slide, too.**

1. Climb up on two front or one back ladders only.



2. Slide down slide feet first. Climbing up the slide is not safe.



3. Parents will help you climb but will not lift you up.



4. Take turns with the “handlebars” under the climber.



Floor equipment (4-5 spotters)

need to stand on each corner of the play area with one always next to jumping steps and any rocking toy



1. Slides- form a line and always slide down feet first.
2. Jumping step- make sure mat is clear before allowing a jump. Help children form a waiting line.
3. Shells, foam pieces, rocking toys- climb on, in and out so friends are not stepped on.
4. Balls – throw/bounce gently. Do not throw at a person unless playing catch together.

5. Riding toys- stay off the carpet. Ride on the tile floor in the same direction (except in tots). No crashing/bumping into each other or into other equipment/furniture.



6. Tower- No objects are to be thrown off tower. Monitor children going up and down steps.



Going outside for a walk or going to the park.

Children must hold an adult hand or the hand of another child who is holding an adult's hand or be holding the rope.

When using the rope one adult helps guide the rope leader by co-holding the child "engineer" and another adult helps apply the brakes to keep the rope straight by co-holding with the "caboose" child. When lining up the children alternate sides of the rope so they are spaced out and have less chance of stepping on each other's feet.

Shoes are on at all times.

Stop at street crossings and look both ways. Point this out to children.

Little Howe Playground (4-6 spotters)

Boundaries: Feet must stay on the woodchip or in the sandbox. Feet always stay covered with shoes.

Be prepared to physically support a child who is trying a piece of equipment.

Decide if a piece of favored equipment needs to have a timekeeper to allow for all children to have a turn.

Any extra parents can float anywhere on the woodchips to monitor safe play where there is a concentration of children.

Position A- Located at NW corner of the climber area. Monitor the west and north side of the structure including the curved ladder on the west and the exit from the slide on the north and the rotating barrel on the north side.



Position B- Located at the northeast corner of the climber area. Monitor the vertical bars, the corkscrew pole and the merry-go-round.



Position C- Located on the east side of the climber at the foot of the small double slide. Monitor the sandbox, the slide and the rocking toys and the steps onto the structure.



Position D- Located on the south side of the climber. Monitor the steps onto the structure, the bridge on the climber and the southwest ladder as well as watching for any children who might leave the wood chip area to go play in wading pool or the swing area.

