

Utah Department of Health, Child Care Licensing Program
Child Care Center Announced Inspection Checklist J -- Playground Inspection (9/12)

Center Name:		Center Phone #:			
Address:			Center ID #:		
Director (or Designee):		Licensed Capacity:	Licensed Capacity < Age 2:		
Licensing Specialist(s):			# of Playgrounds:		
Inspection Date: / /	Start Time:	End Time:	License Expiration Date: / /		
Owner / Director Introductory Items		Appointment Items			
Introduce any unknown Bureau staff to the Owner/Director.		Ask the Owner/Director if there have been any changes in the cushioning since the last inspection. If so, tell the Owner/Director that documentation for the new cushioning will be required when the playground is inspected.			
Give the Owner/Director a brief explanation of the inspection process.					
Ask the Owner/Director if s/he wants you to tell staff about noncompliance as you conduct the walk-through, or wait until the inspection is over and only tell the Owner/Director.				ASTM documentation in BMI.	
				Type of cushioning.	
		Variances that could affect the playground			
GENERAL INSPECTION ITEMS. ONLY IF OBSERVED IN THE OUTDOOR PLAY AREA			Rule #		
			X = Compliance O = Noncompliance		
J 1.	Firearms, ammunition, and other weapons?	100-12(3)			
J 2.	Tobacco, alcohol, illegal substances, and sexually explicit material?	100-12(4)(a)			
J 3.	Toxic or hazardous chemicals? (Cleaners, insecticides, lawn products, flammable substances) /In a labeled container?	100-12(4)(d) /(5)			
J 4.	Poisonous plants?	100-12(4)(e)			
J 5.	Matches or cigarette lighters?	100-12(4)(f)			
J 6.	Open flames?	100-12(4)(g)			
J 7.	Sharp objects, which could cut or puncture skin?	100-12(4)(h)			
J 8.	For age 4 and under, plastic bags large enough for a child's head to fit inside, latex gloves, and balloons?	100-12(4)(j)			
J 9.	Presence of insects, rodents, and other vermin?	100-5(3)			
J 10.	Are there any trampolines in the outdoor play area?	100-12(11)			
J 11.	Standing water?	100-6(7)			
J 12.	Is there always a caregiver at the wading pool supervising children whenever there is water in the pool?	100-12(13)(a)			
J 13.	Do diapered children always wear swim diapers or rubber pants while in the wading pool?	100-12(13)(b)			
J 14.	Is pool enclosed in a fence or other solid barrier at least 6' high, kept locked whenever pool is not in use?	100-12(12)(a)			
J 15.	Does the pool appear to be maintained in a safe manner?	100-12(12)(b)			
J 16.	If the pool is over 4 feet deep and is in use, is there a Red Cross or equivalent certified lifeguard on duty any time children have access to the pool? (If children are playing in the pool.)	100-12(12)(d)			
J 17.	► (Ask if peeling, flaking, chalking or failing paint outdoors is observed.) Was the structure built before 1978? If yes, is there documentation of testing and correction?	100-4(1)			

Notes:			X = Compliance O = Noncompliance				
			Name	Name	Name	Name	Name
OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT INSPECTION ITEMS			Rule #				
J 18	(Observe.) If there are children on the playground, are they being actively supervised to minimize the risk of injury to children? Are infants or toddlers mixed with older children on the same playground? If yes, do they have a variance to mix toddlers and twos? (N/A if no children on the playground.)	100-24(2) 100-11(2)					
J 19.	(Observe.) Is the outdoor play area enclosed within a 4' fence or wall, or a solid natural barrier at least 4' high?	100-6(4)					
J 20.	(Observe.) Are there any gaps in the fence or barrier, or between the fence and the ground, greater than 5" by 5"?	100-6(5)					
J 21.	(Observe.) Are there any openings greater than 3-1/2" x 6-1/4" but less than 9" diameter anywhere in the outdoor play area or within 6 inches of the perimeter of the use zone? (Infants/toddlers: > 23 1/4" above the ground; preschoolers: > 25 1/4"; school age: > 33" above the ground)	100-6(6) 100-6(10)(m)					
J 22.	(Observe.) Are there tripping hazards, such as concrete footings, tree stumps, tree roots, or rocks within the use zone of any piece of stationary play equipment?	100-6(10)(p)					
J 23.	(Observe.) Is the outdoor play area and equipment maintained to protect children's safety? For example; no missing, broken, or worn out components on equipment; all hardware on equipment secure; no metal rusted badly enough to cause equipment failure; no splintery wood; equipment is stable; cushioning is free of animal excrement.	100-6(11)					
J 24.	(Observe.) Is there any designated play surface on infant or toddler equipment more than 3' high? (N/A if no infant/toddler equipment.) (N/A for Out of School Time Programs.)	100-6(10)(a)(i)					
J 25.	(Observe.) If the height of a designated play surface or climbing bar on a piece of equipment, excluding swings, used by infants and toddlers is greater than 18", do the use zones extend a minimum of 3' in all directions from the perimeter of each piece of equipment? (N/A if no infant/toddler equipment.) (N/A for Out of School Time Programs.)	100-6(10)(a)(ii)					
J 26.	(Observe.) The use zone in the front and rear of all swings shall extend a minimum distance of twice the height from the swing seat to the pivot point of the swing, and shall not overlap the use zone of any other piece of equipment. (N/A if no infant/toddler equipment.) (N/A for Out of School Time Programs.)	100-6(10)(a)(iii)					
J 27.	(Observe.) The use zone for the sides of a single-axis swing shall extend a minimum of 3 feet from the perimeter of the structure, and may overlap the use zone of a separate adjacent piece of equipment. (N/A if no infant/toddler equipment.) (N/A for Out of School Time Programs.)	100-6(10)(a)(iv)					
J 28.	(Observe.) The use zone of a multi-axis swing shall extend a minimum distance of 3 feet plus the length of the suspending members, and shall never overlap the use zone of another piece of equipment. (N/A if no infant/toddler equipment.) (N/A for Out of School Time Programs.)	100-6(10)(a)(v)					
J 29.	(Observe.) The use zone for merry-go-rounds shall never overlap the use zone of another piece of equipment. (N/A if no infant/toddler equipment.) (N/A for Out of School Time Programs.)	100-6(10)(a)(vi)					

J 30.	(Observe.) The use zone for spring rockers shall extend a minimum of 3 feet from the at-rest perimeter of the equipment. (N/A if no infant/toddler equipment.) (N/A for Out of School Time Programs.)	100-6(10)(a)(vii)					
J 31.	(Observe.) Do infant and toddler swings have enclosed seats? (N/A if no infant/toddler swings.) (N/A for Out of School Time Programs.)	100-6(10)(a)(viii)					
J 32.	(Observe.) If the height of a designated play surface or climbing bar on a piece of equipment, excluding swings, used by preschoolers or school age children is greater than 20", do the use zones extend a minimum of 6' in all directions from the perimeter of each piece of equipment? (for preschoolers and school age children playground equipment only.)	100-6(10)(b)(i)					
J 33.	(Observe.) The use zone in the front and rear of a single-axis swing shall extend a minimum distance of twice the height of the pivot point of the swing, and may not overlap the use zone of any other piece of equipment. (for preschoolers and school age children playground equipment only.)	100-6(10)(b)(ii)					
J 34.	(Observe.) The use zone for the sides of a single-axis swing shall extend a minimum of 6 feet from the perimeter of the structure, and may overlap the use zone of a separate piece of equipment. (for preschoolers and school age children playground equipment only.)	100-6(10)(b)(iii)					
J 35.	(Observe.) The use zone of a multi-axis swing shall extend a minimum distance of 6 feet plus the length of the suspending members, and shall never overlap the use zone of another piece of equipment. (for preschoolers and school age children playground equipment only.)	100-6(10)(b)(iv)					
J 36.	(Observe.) The use zone for merry-go-rounds shall never overlap the use zone of another piece of equipment. (for preschoolers and school age children playground equipment only.)	100-6(10)(b)(v)					
J 37.	(Observe.) The use zone for spring rockers shall extend a minimum of 6 feet from the at-rest perimeter of the equipment. (for preschoolers and school age children playground equipment only.)	100-6(10)(b)(vi)					
J 38.	(Observe.) Is there protective cushioning in all existing use zones?	100-6(10)(d)					
J 39.	(Observe.) Does protective cushioning in existing use zones around stationary play equipment meet depth requirements and/or need to be redistributed?	100-6(10)(e) 100-6(10)(f)					
J 40.	(Observe.) Is sand, gravel, and shredded tire cushioning loosened (not compacted) to required depths?	100-6(10)(e)					
J 41.	(Observe.) Does wood product cushioning have adequate drainage?	100-6(10)(g)(ii)					
J 42.	If there have been changes in cushioning since last inspection, is there ASTM documentation for wood product cushioning? Get a copy if there is not one in BMI.	100-6(10)(g)(i)					
J 43.	(Observe.) Is poured rubber or rubber mat cushioning securely installed?	100-6(10)(h)(ii)					
J 44.	(Observe.) Is there ASTM documentation for poured rubber or rubber mat cushioning? Get a copy if there is not one in BMI.	100-6(10)(h)(i)					
J 45.	(Observe.) Is stationary play equipment with a designated play surface 18" or less (infant/toddler), 20" or less (preschool), or 30" or less (school age) placed on grass or another soft surface? (Not on concrete, asphalt, or dirt.)	100-6(10)(i)					
J 46.	(Observe.) Are there any strangulation hazards in or adjacent to the use zone of any piece of stationary play	100-6(10)(n)					
J 47.	(Observe.) Are there any crush, shearing, or sharp edge hazards in or adjacent to the use zone of any piece of stationary play equipment?	100-6(10)(o)					
J 48.	(Observe.) Does the stationary play equipment have required protective barriers for infant and toddlers, preschoolers or school age children?	100-6(10)(j) 100-6(10)(k) 100-6(10)(l)					

3 Checklist J, Playground

Playground Worksheet

Cushioning Information

Barriers Information

DPS/Bar/Pivot	F. Sand	C. Sand	F. Gravel	M. Gravel	DPS/Bar/Pivot	EWF	W. Chips	Mulch	
5' or Less	6"	6"	6"	6"	6' or Less	6"	6"	6"	Infants and Toddlers > 18" Platform = 24" Barrier
5' to 6'	12"	12"	6"	12"	6' to 7'	9"	6"	9"	Preschool > 30" Platform = 29" Barrier
6' to 7'	12"	NA	9"	NA	7' to 10'	12"	9"	9"	School Age > 48 " Platform = 38" Barrier
7' to 9'	12"	NA	12"	NA	10' to 11'	12"	12"	12"	
9' to 10'	NA	NA	12"	NA	11' to 12'	12"	NA	NA	

Complete for all playgrounds with elevated play equipment that requires protective cushioning.

Playground				
Highest Designated Surface				
Type of Equipment				
Equipment Location				
Type of Cushioning				
Required Depth				
Hole #1				
Hole #2				
Hole #3				
Hole # 4 (if needed)				
Hole #5 (if needed)				
Hole #6 (if needed)				
Hole #7 (if needed)				
Average Depth				

Complete for each piece of equipment with inadequate protective barriers.

Playground				
Ages of Children				
Piece of Equipment				
Ground to Platform				
Required Barrier Height				
Actual Height of Barrier				

Protective Barriers on Stationary Play Equipment			
	Infants & Toddlers	Preschoolers	School Age
Needed if platform is	> 18" above the ground	> 30" above the ground	> 48" above the ground
Bottom of protective barrier shall be	< 3-1/2" above surface of platform	< 3-1/2" above surface of platform	< 3-1/2" above surface of platform
No openings in barrier	> 3-1/2"	> 3-1/2"	> 3-1/2"
Top of the protective barrier at least	24" above the platform	29" above the platform	38" above the platform

TABLE 1					
Depths of Protective Cushioning Required for Sand, Gravel, and Shredded Tires					
Highest Designated Play Surface, Climbing Bar, or Swing Pivot Point	Fine Sand	Coarse Sand	Fine Gravel	Medium Gravel	Shredded Tires
5' high or less	6"	6"	6"	6"	6"
5' up to 6'	12"	12"	6"	12"	6"
Over 6' up to 7'	12"	Not Allowed	9"	Not Allowed	6"
Over 7' up to 8'	12"	Not Allowed	12"	Not Allowed	6"
Over 8' up to 9'	12"	Not Allowed	12"	Not Allowed	6"
Over 9' up to 10'	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	12"	Not Allowed	6"
Over 10' up to 11'	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	6"
Over 11' up to 12'	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	6"

TABLE 2			
Depths of Protective Cushioning Required for Shredded Wood Products			
Highest Designated Play Surface, Climbing Bar, or Swing Pivot Point	Engineered Wood Fibers	Wood Chips	Double Shredded Bark Mulch
4' high or less	6"	6"	6"
Over 4' up to 5'	6"	6"	6"
Over 5' up to 6'	6"	6"	6"
Over 6' up to 7'	9"	6"	9"
Over 7' up to 8'	12"	9"	9"
Over 8' up to 9'	12"	9"	9"
Over 9' up to 10'	12"	9"	9"
Over 10' up to 11'	12"	12"	12"
Over 11' up to 12'	12"	Not Allowed	Not Allowed