

# Playground Safety: An Annotated Bibliography

A selected listing of titles available on this topic from the  
Early Childhood Training Center's Media Center



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## NDE Early Childhood Training Center

The NDE Early Childhood Training Center is located at  
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# Books

**American Playgrounds: Revitalizing Community Space.** Susan G. Solomon. (2005). Lebanon, NH: University Press of New England. During the past decade, an elite few American architects, landscape architects, and sculptors have pioneered the restoration of aesthetic and developmental values to play areas for young people. Supplementing her impeccable command of primary and secondary sources with hundreds of hours of interviews with designers and clients, the author confronts a seriously under-developed topic with powerful and complex arguments rich in social history, law, theories of play and childhood, and urbanism. Readers will be inspired-and equipped-to take up the gauntlet of advocacy for superior American playgrounds.

**Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards—Guidelines for Early Care and Education Standards, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.** American Public Health Association. (2011). Elk Grove Village, IL: Author. Topics in this third edition include staffing; program activities for healthy development; health promotion and protection; nutrition and food service facilities, supplies, equipment, and environmental health; transportation, play areas, and playgrounds; infectious diseases, children with special needs; licensing, and community action.

**The Developmental Benefits of Playgrounds.** Joe L. Frost. (2004). Olney, MD: Association for Childhood Education International. The initial chapter focuses on the importance of play, with special attention to contemporary research by neuroscientists that reveals, through the aid of high-tech brain imaging techniques, concrete support for the centuries-old contention of noted philosophers and other academicians that play is critical to children's healthy development. Later chapters identify developmental sequences for children's motor behaviors during their play on several types of playground equipment. A primary focus throughout the book is considering individual levels of physical, social, and cognitive development, rather than chronological age, when making decisions about children's play and playgrounds.

**The Great Outdoors.** Mary S. Rivkin. (1995). National Association for the Education of Young Children: Washington, DC. In this book, author Mary Rivkin sounds the call for schools and communities to restore children's outdoor play opportunities, gives inspiring examples of play spaced across the United States and the World, and offers practical ideas for bringing the great outdoors to your school.

**High Expectations: Playgrounds for Children of All Abilities.** Schappet, J. (2003). Bloomfield, CT: National Center for Boundless Playgrounds. This book focuses on play environments for the youngest players, children of all abilities across all the stages of their development who are preschoolers. It discusses underlying assumptions, the play behavior framework, the predictable play behaviors of children, pattern supports, keeping the play experience fresh, barrier-free play environments, tackling the site details, sample designs, and toward safe inclusive play. A glossary and reading list are included, along with a CD of supporting text.

**Let's Go Outside!** Tracy Theemes. (1999). Ypsilanti, MI: High/Scope Press. The author shows teachers, child care providers, and other adults who work with 2- to 8-year-olds how to design, equip, and maintain safe yet challenging playgrounds.

**Outdoor Play Every Day: Innovative Play Concepts for Early Childhood.** Karyn Wellhousen. (2002). Albany, NY: Delmar. *Outdoor Play Every Day* covers outdoor play experiences for children from birth to age eight, offering suggestions for creating developmentally appropriate practices, and giving examples of safe and accessible playgrounds. Special attention is also given to observation and assessment of children's outdoor play.

**A Place for Play.** Elizabeth Goodenough. (2008). Carmel Valley, CA: National Institute for Play. *A Place for Play* is framed by interviews with experts from *Where Do the Children Play*, a 60-minute documentary from Michigan Television. This companion volume to the film, with a foreword by Richard Louv, explores key issues that have captured national attention in recent years: namely the ways in which free play outdoors is slipping from children's lives. Responding to the sense of lost childhood and fear that pervades our society, this full-color, richly illustrated anthology surveys the history of playground design and the children's garden movement, the benefits of universal access to natural resources, and the challenges of developing child-centered and green communities. Essays address multiple social issues, including restrictive patterns of sprawl, to explain why children are losing the ability to travel on their own or explore green spaces.

**Playgrounds that Work: Creating Outdoor Play Environments for Children Birth to Eight Years.** Pauline Berry. (2001). Baulkham Hills, New South Wales, AU: Pademelon Press. *Playgrounds that Work* offers information needed to create appropriate outdoor learning environments that are based on children's playground behavior, interests, and developmental needs. The book includes information on play features for young children, considerations for children with special needs, and the planning process.

**S.A.F.E. Play Areas: Creation, Maintenance, and Renovation.** Donna Thompson. (2007). Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics. For children, playgrounds and play areas are a recipe for fun—or perhaps an accident waiting to happen. Playing without fear or tears provides many benefits to a child's development. Yet every year, hundreds of thousands of children suffer serious playground-related injuries that require emergency medical treatment. Written by the National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS) staff, *S.A.F.E. Play Areas: Creation, Maintenance, and Renovation* is a resource for facility managers, administrators, and play supervisors in any playground or play area. Includes a CD-ROM.

# Audiovisual Material

**Better Kid Care: The Ups and Downs of Outdoor Play.** University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University, 2002. Discover great activities for outdoor play, ways to keep children safe, and the administration of a safety inspection. DVD

**Building Better Child Care through Health Consultation.** Chapel Hill, NC: National Training Institute for Child Care Health Consultants. No publication year provided. This program introduces the role of the Child Care Health Consultant. With a growing number of children under the age of five enrolled in regular out-of-home child care, it is important that these facilities be equipped to respond appropriately to the health and safety of children. A child care health consultant is trained to address issues such as playground safety and infectious diseases. The viewer will hear the experiences of child care center directors, health consultants, and consultant trainers. DVD

**Planning Accessible Safe Playgrounds Using the Americans with Disabilities Act.** CD-ROM. Ames, IA: National Program for Playground Safety. No publication year provided. This CD-ROM is a self-paced pictorial guide covering all the elements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. It is intended for designers, planners, installers, and anyone interested in planning a safe, accessible playground. It offers a clear explanation of the ADA standards for playgrounds. CD-ROM