

## **Key Points to Providing Safe Playground Supervision**

- **Nationwide 200,000** children visit the emergency room each year due to injuries sustained on the playground (Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2006).
- **Nationwide 80%** of elementary school injuries every school year happen on the playground (Thompson & Bruya, 1995).
- **84%** of all playground accidents could be avoided through two activities: adult supervision and proper playground maintenance (National Playground Safety Institute).

**Portland Public Schools is committed to the safety of every child we serve, mentor, and educate. While the majority of this education occurs in the classroom, the playground serves as a tool for activity and learning.**

**The likelihood of injury is dramatically increased once a student enters the playground. In reported accidents, Portland Public Schools had 391 reported student injuries on playgrounds in 2010. We see a gamut of injuries from slips, trips and falls, to fractures, concussions, and even in one case the ingestion of poisonous berries!**

- Develop playground rules. Example: Tag games should be played in the grassy area away from the equipment; children can use slides by going down feet first; fences, trees, lampposts, and other site amenities should not be used as climbing equipment.
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