

# CATHOLIC MUTUAL... “CARES”

## SCHOOL SAFETY

### PLAYGROUND AGE APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT, SIGNAGE AND FENCING

Children at different ages and stages of development have different needs and abilities. Playgrounds are designed to stimulate and encourage children to develop new skills, but the playground equipment should be in scale with the size of the children playing in the area. Due to fall height restrictions, not all playground equipment is appropriate for all ages.

To further protect children using the playground, in 1999, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued a warning that helmets should never be worn when playing on playground equipment as it presents an opportunity for entrapment and strangulation. In addition, hoodies with draw strings should not be worn on the playground due to the strangulation potential from the draw string.

It is always recommended to separate playground areas by age. The table below shows age appropriate equipment, keep in mind this list is not inclusive. For more information on age appropriate equipment, please visit [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

Toddler—Ages 6-23 months	Preschool—Ages 2-5 years	Grade School - Ages 5-12 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Climbing equipment under 32”</li><li>• Ramps</li><li>• Single file step ladders</li><li>• Slides</li><li>• Spiral slides less than 360°</li><li>• Spring Rockers</li><li>• Stairways</li><li>• Swings with full bucket seats</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Horizontal ladders less than or equal to 60” high (age 4-5 only)</li><li>• Merry-go-rounds</li><li>• Ramps</li><li>• Rung ladders</li><li>• Single file step ladders</li><li>• Spiral slides less than 360°</li><li>• Spring Rockers</li><li>• Stairways</li><li>• Swings with full bucket seats</li><li>• Swings, belt, full bucket seats (2-4 years) and rotating tire</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chain or cable walks</li><li>• Free standing climbing equipment with flexible parts</li><li>• Fulcrum seesaws</li><li>• Ladders—horizontal, rung, and step</li><li>• Merry-go-rounds</li><li>• Spiral slides more than 360°</li><li>• Stairways</li><li>• Swings belt and rotating tire</li><li>• Track rides</li><li>• Vertical sliding poles</li></ul>

(Rev 5/2016)



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### PLAYGROUND AGE APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT, SIGNAGE AND FENCING

Playground signage should be strategically located in an area that is visible to anyone who enters the playground area. The types of signage that should be posted in the playground area are:



Adult Supervision Required.

Outside of normal school playground activities, this sign gives notice to the general public that an adult must be present to supervise the activities of their children playing on the playground.



Age appropriate equipment.

Playground equipment is designed for certain age groups. Placing age appropriate signage should deter older children from playing on equipment that is designed for pre-school aged children.



Combination signage.

Other types of signage could include playground rules, no smoking, a warning about surfacing/equipment temperatures, improper types of clothing, and basic playground rules.

#### Playground Fencing

ASTM F2049-11 is the standard for fencing in your playground. The fence must completely enclose the playground and be a minimum of 48" high. The latches to the gate should measure no less than 48" as well. A discrete barrier of bushes or shrubs should be placed along any side of the playground that is within 30' of streets and parking lots. For more information on the playground fencing standard, please visit

[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

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