

## **Playground Safety Policy/Procedure**

To insure as safe a playground experience as possible.

### **Policy/Procedure:**

- The ratio for playground supervision must be at least one Head Start staff person per 10 preschool children. However, there should never be fewer than two staff with any size group on the playground.
- The ratio for playground supervision must be at least one Early Head Start staff person per 4 toddler children.
- In preschool classrooms that employ three staff persons, all staff, or at least two staff and one adult volunteer, must be present on the playground (or on a field trip).
- Some children may need one to one supervision when outside the classroom to keep children safe and to make sure that other staff are available to tend to the needs of other children. This determination should be made by the Lead Educator and can be initiated at any time of year. The Lead Educator will work in conjunction with the Disabilities and Mental Health Manager who will try to find a way that one to one supervision can be accomplished if needed.
- Staff must be strategically located on the playground so that they are on opposite sides of the play structures and situated so that all the children are within view at all times.
- Staff will utilize a playground safety checklist prior to children using the playground. Documentation of this check is made on the Weekly Lesson Plan by the classroom Lead Educator or socialization form by home visiting Lead Educator.
- Home visiting Lead Educators will encourage and educate families on actively engaging with their children during group events at playgrounds.
- Staff will discuss playground safety with children and consistently reinforce the rules.
- Arrowhead Head Start ensures the following guidelines at minimum:
  - Equipment where entire body of preschool children is over 5' high will not be used.
  - Equipment where entire body of toddler children is over 32" high will not be used.
  - Establish areas that are safe for running.
  - Establish playground boundaries. If fences are not present, some type of visual marker should be used as the playground boundary.
  - Appropriate play for slide safety will be followed.
  - Appropriate sand play will be followed.

This policy complies with Head Start Performance Standard 45CFR Section 1304.53

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