

PLAYGROUND TIPS & RULES

for 1st Grade Playground Monitors

Tips

- The paid playground monitors are excellent resources if you have questions about rules, safety, etc.
- If a student needs to be sent to the office, a paid monitor should be involved. Monitors will notify office staff that a student is on the way.
- Some children speak mostly Spanish, and others understand very little Spanish.
- If there are two volunteers, it works well to have one stationed near or between the slides, monitoring the tower; and the other monitoring the rotating rings, clockwise traffic flow, and the games being played on the black top nearby.
- If a child is not following the school's rules, you should first teach or remind the child of the rules. Sample language:
 - "Have you learned the play structure rules? Let me remind you of the rules."
 - If a child continues to not follow the rule, "You're still not following the rule. Can you tell me the rule?"
 - If the child again does not follow the rule, "I need you to sit down for a minute and think about the rule." "Let's watch how others are following the rule."
- If a group of students is having difficulty following the rules together, suggest that they find another game or help them split up into groups that complement each other's play.
- Students who attend CDC may have a different understanding of the playground rules. They may need to be reminded of the difference between school rules and CDC rules.

General Playground Rules

- The 1st grade play structure is located on the north side of the playground and is called the "SCHOOL structure" as opposed to south side structure that is called the "CITY structure". When 1st graders are present during recess, they have exclusive use of the SCHOOL structure.
- First graders are allowed to play on the field behind the blacktop as far back as a visual line between the two trees that have a big red circle on them (these trees are on the north and south sides of field).
- First graders are also allowed to play on the blacktop. Some students may think that that 1st graders are not allowed beyond a certain point on the blacktop. This is not true. First graders are allowed to play on the entire blacktop area. However, they are not permitted to go on the CITY structure.
- Students are allowed to go to the bathrooms or to the water fountains, but are not allowed to play in the hallways near the classroom areas.

PLAYGROUND TIPS & RULES

for 1st Grade Playground Monitors

School Structure Rules

- No running around the structure.
- No sitting on top of the structure.
- Students must move through the structure in a clockwise direction, with the end being the tall tower with the slides.
- Students may enter and exit the structure at any point as long as they move along it in a clockwise direction.
- Only one student at a time is allowed on the red rotating aerial rings. Students waiting for their turn on the rings must wait in a line to the left of the ring (as you are standing with your back to the structure, looking out toward the blacktop). *One student at a time waits their turn on the platform, with the others lined up on ground level. Only one student at a time on the ring – going around once and dropping to the ground immediately after.* If a student would like another turn on the ring, s/he must go around the ring on ground level to get back in line.
- Only one student at a time on the swinging and elevated “stepping stones.”
- On the tower, the “climbing mountain” and the chain plank are only for going up (not for coming down).
- Slides are only for going down (not for climbing up). Only one student at a time in a slide. A student should not enter the slide until the child in front has arrived at the bottom. No pushing on the slide. Students may slide down only on their bottoms.
- To avoid the possibility of too many students in the slide at the same time, it helps to encourage children not to congregate in large groups at the top of the tower.
- Parallel bars are to be used only to strengthen upper bodies. Students may push themselves up using both arms. NO FLIPS or using the parallel bars for games.
- When using the tall bars, students need to be hanging by their arms, and hands need to be in contact with the bars at all times. No hanging by their legs, and NO FLIPS.

Playing Tag

- The school has a “one hand tag” rule. No grabbing pushing, pulling, etc.
- Tag should not be played in the play structure area.

PLAYGROUND TIPS & RULES

for 1st Grade Playground Monitors

Play-fighting / Roughhousing

- Play-fighting is not allowed at school. Redirect physical games and remind students that they need to keep their hands to themselves during active play.
- Twigs and sticks may not be used as weapons.
- If, after several reminders or redirections, the students continue to engage in play-fighting, send them to the office. (Please inform the paid monitors that the students are being sent to the office so that they can notify office staff).

Ball Walls

- 1st graders most likely will not engage in blacktop ball games at the start of the school year. As the year progresses, they may need your help in this area.
- When playing in the ball wall area, there should be NO students against the wall.
- All students waiting their turn must line up outside of the play area defined by the painted lines.
- For additional guidance in this area please refer to the handout on ball games.

Injuries/Emergencies

- If there is an emergency and a child seems seriously hurt, do not move the child. Call for one of the paid playground monitors. They are all trained in CPR and first aid, and have walkie talkies to initiate the school's emergency response process.
- For minor scrapes, the students should check-in with the paid monitors, who have first aid items in their fanny packs.
- For bumps and bruises, the students may want to go to the office with a friend to get an ice pack. They should check-in with a paid monitor so that office staff can be notified that a student is on the way.