

Playground Requirements

Current Bright from the Start (BftS) policy (Minimum safety requirements)	U.S. Consumer Product Safety Comm. (CPSC) Standard from Public Playground Safety Handbook (“Best Practice”)
<p>General use zone for equipment not specifically listed: -6 foot minimum</p>	<p>-Same- Use zone should extend a minimum of 6 ft. in all directions from the perimeter of the equipment (see notes at end)</p>
<p>Stand alone climbers (i.e. arch climbers, dome climbers [jungle gyms], overhead horizontal ladders [monkey bars], spiral climbers: -BftS has assessed use zones (fall zones) by measuring out four feet in all directions from climbing structures (i.e. climbers/ladders)</p>	<p>-Use zone should extend a minimum of 6 ft. in all directions from the perimeter of the stand alone climber.</p>
<p>Slides: -Four (4) foot perimeter use zone around ladder/climbing end of slide -Five (5) foot use zone at exit area of slide (Five foot from end of slide and out from sides of slide at exit region)</p>	<p>-Use zone in front of the access (ladder) and to the sides of a slide should extend a min. of 6 ft. from the perimeter of the equipment. -For slides less than or equal to 6 ft. high, the use zone in front of the exit (bottom) should be at least 6 ft. -For slides greater than 6 ft. high, the use zone in front of the exit should be at least as long as the slide is high (up to max. of 8 ft.)</p>
<p>Swings/ Belt swings: -Use zone has been determined by measuring length of the swing chain and adding 7 ft.; (i.e. 5’9” chain + 7 ft= 12”9” fall zone) -must extend in front and in back of the stationary swing -Use zone should extend out 6 ft. from sides of swing frame/bay</p>	<p>-Use zone is calculated by measuring the vertical distance from the pivot point (point where swing is attached to bay/frame) to the top of the protective surface beneath it, then doubling the measurement. (i.e. 10 ft. from pivot point to resilient surface= 20 ft. use zone in front AND in back of the swing) -Use zone to the sides should extend a min. of 6 ft. from the perimeter of the swing (frame) (Note: can overlap that of an adjacent swing structure)</p>
<p>Swings/ Toddler-“Bucket” swings: -BftS/ASU has not specified a required fall zone/surfacing requirement for bucket swings</p>	<p>-Use zone should extend to the front and rear a minimum of twice the vertical distance from the top of the occupant’s sitting surface to the pivot point.</p>

<p>Tire Swings (multi-axis/ i.e. three chains):</p> <p>-Determined fall zone based on length of chain plus 7 ft.</p>	<p>-Use zone should extend in any direction from a point directly beneath the pivot point for a minimum distance of 6 ft. plus the length of the suspending members (chains)</p> <p>-Also, the minimum clearance between the seating surface of a tire swing and the uprights of the supporting structure (bay/frame) should be 30" when the tire is in a position closest to the support structure.</p> <p>-Minimum clearance between the bottom of the seat and the protective surface should not be less than 12 inches.</p>
<p>Merry Go Rounds:</p> <p>-Seven (7) foot clearance from perimeter of merry go round</p>	<p>-Use zone should extend a minimum of 6 ft. beyond the perimeter of the platform.</p>

Loose-fill Resilient Surfacing Differences

<p>Bright from the Start/ current policy:</p>	<p>CPSC recommendations:</p>
<p>-Three (3) inches of loose fill surfacing for equipment that measures between 3-5 ft. high</p> <p>-Six (6) inches of loose fill surfacing for swings and equipment over 5 ft. high</p>	<p>-Never use less than 9 inches of loose-fill material. Shallower depths are too easily displaced and compacted. (pg. 10, #7)</p> <p>CPSC also notes that loose-fill materials will compress at least 25% over time due to use and weathering. If a playground will require 9 inches of wood chips, then the initial fill level should be 12 inches.</p>

Fall Height & Use Zone information from CPSC:

- The fall height of a piece of equipment is the distance between the highest designated playing surface and the protective surface beneath it.
- Use zones of two adjacent, stationary pieces of equipment may overlap if the designated play surfaces of each structure are no more than 30 inches above protective surface and the equipment is at least 6 feet apart.
- If adjacent designated play surfaces on either structure exceed a height of 30 inches, the minimum distance between the structures should be 9 feet.
- Use zones should be free of obstacles.