

OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTS CHECKLIST

The following checklist has been developed to assist Kindergarten Committees and staff in outdoor developments.

		Yes	No
1.	Has an overall plan been developed to ensure that individual playground components are most suitably placed?		
2.	Have the following people been included in the planning process?		
	- Children		
	- Kindergarten staff		
	- Committee members		
	- Senior Teachers		
	- Property Officer		
3.	Have plans for suitable safety surfacing been included?		
LAYOUT AND LOCATION			
4.	Are traffic routes to the building, gate, shed and equipment planned?		
5.	Are swings sited so that children do not have to pass in front or behind in order to reach other equipment?		
6.	Does safety surfacing under swings extend 1.5m beyond the full arc of the swing?		
7.	Are equipment, barriers and retaining walls and edgings placed outside of the fall zone?		
8.	Are slides sited away from the full strength of the sun?		
9.	Is there comfortable seating for adults, especially around sandpits?		
10.	Are the following activities provided for:		
	- sand play		
	- junk play		
	- water play		
	- carpentry		
	- active physical play		
	- space for running/ball games etc		
	- nature/gardening		
	- quiet play		
11.	Has the playground design ensured that particular play areas do not compete for space or impact negatively on adjacent areas?		
12.	Is the landscaping attractive with both shady and sunny areas?		
13.	Has provision been made for:		
	- 'wild areas'		
	- children's gardens		
14.	Has the predominant wind directions and path of the sun been taken into consideration when siting playground components, especially sandpits?		
15.	Have drainage factors been taken into account when siting playground components?		
TYPES OF EQUIPMENT			
16.	Is equipment designed and installed so that children who are not able to use safely and correctly are unable to access it (eg children under three years unable to get to fire fighter pole)?		

17	Does equipment provide physical challenge at various skill levels?		
18	Does the equipment encourage social play and avoid the need to wait in line?		
19	Can equipment be used in a variety of safe ways instead of having just one safe use?		
20	Are hand grips the right size for safe gripping?		
21	Does equipment avoid fall heights of more than 1.2 metres?		
22	Is a guardrail provided at the top of the slide?		
23	Are handrails provided for steps and ramps?		
24	Are there potential areas where entrapments could occur? ie heads, fingers or clothing?		
25	Does high equipment offer 'way out' options?		
26	Is there a 1metre fall zone adjacent to the slide chute?		
27	If metal, is the sliding chute of the slide made of one continuous sheet?		
28	Is there a clear 2m fall zone between the slide and other equipment (cannot overlap with other fall zone)		
29	Is the run-off end of the slide parallel to the ground to decelerate speed?		
30	Are swing seats lightweight, slip-resistant and without hard edges?		
31	Are platforms able to be modified by children using moveable equipment, eg planks, ladders?		
32	Is the sandpit large enough to cater for the number of children using it?		
33	Has drainage been addressed, particularly when setting sandpits into the ground?		
34	Is spilt sand able to be swept back into the sandpit?		
35	Does the layout of the playground ease supervision?		
MATERIALS AND INSTALLATION			
36	Is timber sanded or painted to prevent splintering?		
37	Are timber edges rounded?		
38	Is drainage adequate at the base of equipment to prevent rotting or corrosion?		
39	Is timber fastened with recessed bolts rather than nails?		
40	Has timber been pressure-treated with preservatives? Is the appropriate H rating timber being used?		
41	Have preservative-treated off cuts been removed?		
42	Have foundations been set at least 100mm below ground surface?		
43	Have sharp edges on concrete blocks and pipes been eliminated?		
44	Has steel tubing been galvanised?		
50	Have tyres without steel belting been used?		
51	Is all unfixed equipment able to be secured?		
52	Have pinch points been avoided?		

Checklist adapted from:

Jill Root (1983) Play Without Pain - a manual for playground safety.
Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia, Melbourne.