

CHLD 202: Health, Safety, and Nutrition for the Young Child

Playground Inspection Traditional Format

Learning Objectives	3. Explain and identify ways to maintain a safe environment including: identifying hazards and risks; conducting regular health and safety assessments consistent with regulations and quality standards; and taking corrective action when necessary.
DEC Recommended Practices	C6 Learning environments meet accepted standards of quality including curriculum, child-staff ratios, group size and physical design of classroom. C10 Interventionists facilitate children’s engagement with their environment to encourage child-initiated learning that is not dependent on the adult’s presence.
NAEYC Standards	3c Knowing about and using observation, documentation, and other appropriate assessment tools and approaches.

This field experience will be conducted during your class session. Heidi German, the Nurse Consultant for the Child Development Lab, is also a Certified Playground Consultant. She will conduct an inspection of one of the playgrounds at the CDL using Guidelines from the US Product Safety Commission. You will shadow her and learn how to identify hazards and risks and check that the playground design and equipment are consistent with regulations and quality standards.

To prepare for this class session you need to:

- Read Chapter 8: Safety Management
- Review the portion of the IL DCFS Licensing Standards for Child Care Centers that address playgrounds (Subpart H: Facility and Equipment: 407.390 Outdoor Play Area).
 - Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (2010, December 15). *Licensing standards for day care centers*. Available from <http://www.state.il.us/dcfs/docs/407.pdf>
- Review the US Consumer Product Safety Commission’s Public Playground Safety Checklist.
 - US Consumer Product Safety Commission. (2010). *Public playground safety checklist (CPSC Document #327)*. Available from <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Safety-Education/Safety-Guides/Sports-Fitness-and-Recreation/Playground-Safety/Public-Playground-Safety-Checklist/>

During the inspection:

- Keep notes on any comments or findings that Heidi makes.
- Note provisions that were made in this particular design to meet DEC Recommended Practice C10 “facilitate children’s engagement with their outdoor environment to encourage child-initiated learning that is not dependent on adult’s presence.”

After the class session is complete:

- You will need to write a reflection that includes the following:
 - Does the Child Development Lab playground meet accepted CPSC and DCFS standards? Be specific about any problems that were found.
 - How do you feel the Child Development Lab facilitates children's health by engaging them with the outdoor environment?