

Outdoor Portable Play Equipment in the time of Covid-19



Motor Skills

- Stepping stones, balance beams
- Targets or baskets
- Parachute (large)
- Balls with different colors, textures, and sizes
- Washable soft balls
- Push Toys
- Scoops and/Balance boards
- Ride-ons and Trikes
- Scooter boards
- Swing cards
- Bouncing toys
- Rody/Hippy hops
- Mini trampolines

Health-Related Fitness Components

- Music
- Cones, hoops, tiles and poly spots
- Poles and cones
- Ribbon Wands (individual or classroom)
- Ride-ons and Trikes
- Scooter boards
- Swing cards
- Washable scarves or ribbon wands (individual or classroom)
- Dirt and mud toys (individual or classroom)
- Rattles (individual or classroom)
- Small slides
- Washable sacks
- Bubbles and bubble machine
- Yoga and physical activity cards
- Loose Parts
- Equipment storage container (individual or classroom)

Tips for using traditional portable play equipment:

- Provide maximum individual participation.
- Modify equipment to balance success and challenge.
- Use novel types of equipment.
- Talk to the children about how to treat and use the equipment.
- Use music to encourage change in tempo, stop/go cues, and listen for directions.
- Allow children to self-select equipment.
- Teach and practice how to use equipment often.





Keeping Portable Play Equipment Safe

- Limit the mixing of children (e.g., staggering outdoor learning times, keeping groups separate for outdoor learning times.)
- Toys and other items, including dramatic play items, that cannot be laundered or cleaned and sanitized/disinfected should not be used.
- Outdoor water play using sprinklers is considered similar to playground usage. However, water for outdoor play cannot be collected or recirculated and must drain quickly to avoid puddling.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, including surfaces on the playground or portable play equipment, throughout the day between different groups of children, and at the end of the day.
- Examples of frequently touched surfaces on the playground might be handlebars on riding, push or pull equipment, grab rails on climbing toys, raised edges on slides, swing chains, etc.
- Do not share equipment with other groups, unless they are cleaned and sanitized/disinfected between different groups of children.
- Water play and sensory play such as rice, beans, sand, or playdough activities are prohibited.
- Items that can't be cleaned, such as chalk, should be placed in separate containers labeled for each child or not used at all.
- Mouthed toys:
 - * Use separate bins of toys/equipment for each infant or toddler as they tend to put toys in their mouths.
 - * Toys that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by oral secretions should be placed in a "used toys" bin when the child is finished playing with the toy, then cleaned and sanitized by running the items through a dishwasher that includes a sanitizing cycle OR by the following procedure:
 - 1) Scrub in warm, soapy water using a brush to reach into crevices.
 - 2) Rinse in clean water.
 - 3) Submerge or spray with either:
 - a bleach solution of 50-200 parts per million of chlorine and leave for at least two minutes.
 - OR-**
 - a food safe disinfectant solution that is effective against the COVID-19 virus following manufacturer's guidance on contact time.
 - 4) Let air dry.
 - * Try to have enough equipment so that it can be rotated through cleanings.
- Plan activities that do not need close physical contact.
- Always wash hands upon returning to the classroom after outdoor time (from the CDC, NCDHHS, North Carolina Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center, and Washington DOH)
- Plan more outdoor activities.

