SafeCheck
— PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS —

Playground Safety Inspection Report

SAMPLE REPORT



Site	Sample Elementary School (Small Play Area)
Inspection Date	July 29, 2026
Inspector	Petros Papageorge, CPSI
Inspection Type	Comprehensive Playground Safety Audit (CPSC / ASTM F1487)

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Sample report: site name changed for client privacy. Findings and photos are from a real CPSI inspection.

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Inspection Summary

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OVERVIEW

SafeCheck inspected the small play area against CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook guidelines and ASTM F1487 standards. The site is in good overall condition, with compliant engineered wood fiber surfacing and an ADA-accessible entry ramp. 7 items need correction: 3 are Priority 2 and 4 are Priority 3. No Priority 1 hazards were found.

8	0	3	4
Equipment areas inspected	Priority 1 hazards	Priority 2 hazards	Priority 3 items

PRIORITY GUIDE

Priority	What it means	What to do
1	Serious hazard that could cause very severe injury	Fix immediately or close off the area
2	Hazard that could cause a serious injury	Fix as soon as possible
3	Minor injury risk, or could get worse over time	Repair when scheduling allows

PRIORITY HAZARD ACTION SHEET

#	Priority	Location	Hazard	Corrective action
1	2	Free-Standing Climber (8)	Use zone is only 32 1/2 in. to the surfacing border; 72 in. (6 ft) minimum required	Relocate or reinstall to get a 6 ft use zone with safety surfacing on all sides
2	2	Swing Bay 1 (9-1)	Open S-hooks (gap over 0.04 in.) create an entanglement hazard	Close S-hooks fully
3	2	Swing Bay 2 (9-2)	Belt seat and inclusive seat mixed in the same bay	Move the inclusive swing to its own dedicated bay
4	3	Composite Structure - Wall Climber (6b)	Loose hardware at top of climber to deck (hand-tightened on site)	Secure with proper tools
5	3	Composite Structure - Decks & Stairs (6a)	Peeling topcoat and surface rust	Clean, treat rust, and recoat
6	3	Swing Bay 2 (9-2)	Excess chain hanging loose at top connector	Remove excess chain links
7	3	Merry-Go-Round (14)	Loose hardware on top-mounted component	Tighten hardware

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Maintenance Inspection Checklist

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Excerpt. The full report covers all 16 equipment and site categories. OK = no issue found. NR = needs repair (see findings).

1. Loose-Fill Surfacing

OK	NR	Item
✓		Containment border members securely anchored; none loose or missing
✓		Containment border material free of breaks, damage, or deterioration
✓		Fasteners flush or recessed with top of containment border
✓		Surfacing at or above minimum depth benchmarks at border and play structures
✓		No impalement protrusions or splinters in containment border
✓		No broken glass, metal, or sharp objects in surfacing
✓		No loose-fill particles larger than two fingers in width
✓		No feces, body fluids, food waste, or unsanitary conditions
✓		Surfacing not constantly wet or water-logged
✓		No fungi, moss, algae, or vegetation in surfacing
✓		No large or numerous insect nests in surfacing

6. Composite Structure

OK	NR	Item
✓		Structural integrity of mountings and foundation
✓		Missing, loose, badly worn, or deteriorated fasteners and couplings
	✓	Broken, damaged, or deteriorated materials
✓		Excessively worn S-hooks, chain links, clevis, shackles, or connectors
✓		Flexible access components (rope, cable, chain, tires) for wear
✓		Corrosion of steel fasteners, weld points, or other metal parts
✓		Wood portions for rot, cracking, splitting, or splintering
✓		Footers and points of contact for corrosion or rot
✓		Non-metal components for cracking or breakage
✓		Uncapped pipe ends
✓		Safety surfacing in use zone, especially at ascent/descent components
✓		Missing or broken handholds
✓		Footers exposed or insufficiently covered with surfacing
	✓	Maintenance needs assessment for metal, plastic, or wood parts

9. Swing Frame, Assembly, and Seats

OK	NR	Item
✓		Structural integrity of mountings and foundation
✓		Missing, loose, badly worn, or deteriorated fasteners and couplings
✓		Broken, damaged, or deteriorated materials
✓		Swing seats for cracks, excessive wear, or breakage
	✓	S-hooks, chain links, clevis, shackles, or connecting fastener wear
✓		Bushing sleeves or bolt shafts in swing assembly for wear
✓		Corrosion of steel fasteners, weld points, or other metal parts
✓		Footers exposed or insufficiently covered with safety surfacing
✓		Footers and points of contact for corrosion or rot
✓		Maintenance needs assessment for metal, plastic, and wood parts

Inspector Comments & Notes

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1) Loose-Fill Surfacing & Borders

Engineered wood fiber, approx. 5,000 sq ft, with concrete border. Protective surfacing is compliant. Rake and redistribute material in high-traffic areas (swings, slide exits) to keep depth even. The play area has an ADA-compliant accessible ramp that provides an inclusive route of entry.

6) Composite Structure: Playland Structure

a) Decking and stair components show peeling topcoat and visible surface rust. Clean, treat rusted areas, and recoat to prevent further deterioration.
b) Wall climber entry/exit: loose hardware connecting the top of the climber to the deck. Hand-tightened on site; secure with proper tools.

8) Free-Standing Climber

The distance from the outer edge of the geodome climber to the edge of the protective surfacing measures 32 1/2 in., which does not meet the 72 in. (6 ft) minimum use zone. Relocate or reinstall to get a 6 ft use zone with safety surfacing around all sides of the climber.

9-1) Swing Frame, Assembly, and Seats (1 bay, 2 seats)

S-hook openings greater than 0.04 in. (about the thickness of a dime) create an entanglement hazard. Close S-hooks fully.

9-2) Swing Frame, Assembly, and Seats (1 bay, 1 seat, 1 inclusive seat)

ASTM and CPSC recommend against mixing different seat types in the same swing bay. Move the inclusive swing to its own dedicated bay. Excess swing chain is hanging loose from the top connector; remove excess links.

14) Merry-Go-Round

Loose hardware on the top-mounted component. Tighten.

Next steps. SafeCheck can provide a follow-up re-inspection after repairs to confirm corrections and update your documentation for insurance and maintenance records.

6a) Composite Structure





Peeling topcoat and surface rust on decks and stairs (Priority 3)

6b) Composite Structure





Loose hardware at wall climber connection to deck (Priority 3)

8) Free-Standing Climber



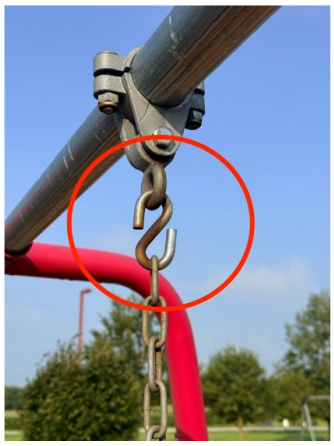




Use zone 32 1/2 in.; 72 in. minimum required (Priority 2)

9-1) Swings: 1 Bay / 2 Seats

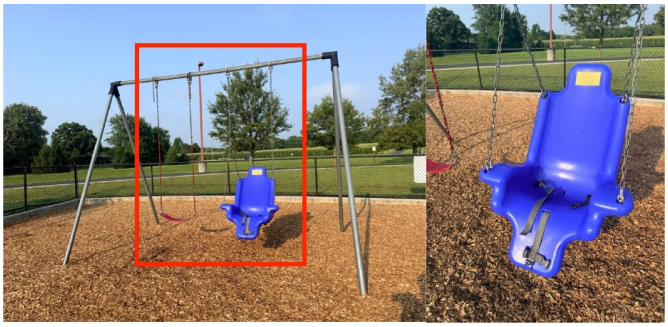






Open S-hooks create entanglement hazard (Priority 2)

9-2) Swings: 1 Bay / 1 Seat / 1 Inclusive





Mixed seat types in one bay; excess chain (Priorities 2 and 3)

14) Merry-Go-Round







Loose hardware on top-mounted component (Priority 3)