

Betty Wheeler Classical Junior Academy

Playground Procedures

Our playground rules are developed to keep children safe while allowing them opportunities to grow and play. Students must listen to all adults supervising the play area whether they are a teacher, administrator, non-duty supervisor, or a volunteer. The staff on playground duty will handle discipline. Disrespect for authority or disregard for rules and regulations will result in disciplinary actions for the student. Only school regulated equipment (provided by the school) is allowed on the playground.

There is no playground supervision before 8:45am or after school hours. During this time, an adult must accompany all children on the playground. Teachers on duty reserve the right to change these rules at any time if there is something that affects their ability to keep children safe. Review this information with your child and report any playground equipment issues to the main office. Thanks for your cooperation.

Playground Etiquette

Safe equipment and adult supervision are important on playgrounds, but that is not all. Keep your children as safe as possible by teaching them to act responsibly. Some general rules:

- Never push or roughhouse on equipment.
- Leave bikes, backpacks and other items in a designated spot. Items left randomly around the playground can cause children to trip and fall.
- Do not use the equipment if it is wet, because moisture causes the surface to be slippery.
- Do not wear clothes with drawstrings at the playground. They can be caught on equipment and pose a strangulation hazard.

Slides

- Take one-step at a time and hold onto the handrail when climbing the ladder to the top of the slide. Never climb up the slide itself to get to the top.
- Slide down feet first and sitting up, never head first on your back or stomach.
- Do not slide down in groups. Only one child should be on the slide platform at a time.
- Always check that the bottom of the slide is clear before sliding down.
- On hot days, feel the slide with your hand before climbing up to the top. If the slide feels too warm, do not play on it.

Climbing Equipment

- Climbing equipment comes in many shapes and sizes, including arches, domes and horizontal ladders, and is generally more challenging for kids than other kinds of playground equipment.
- Use both hands and stay well behind the person in front of you, and beware of swinging feet. When you drop from the bars, bend your knees and land on both feet.

- Crowded equipment can be dangerous. Everyone should start on the same side of the equipment and move across it in the same direction.
- When climbing down, watch for those climbing up; never race across or try to reach for bars that are too far ahead.
- Children younger than five may not have the upper body strength necessary for climbing. Adult supervision is especially important for younger kids.

Source: National Program for Playground Safety.

Consequences for Playground Rule Violations

Rule violations that involve minor, day-to-day issues and deal with following the basic rules of the school will involve remediation with the student and staff member directly involved and responsible for the supervision at the time.

- Verbal reprimand
- Redirection (redirect the student to act appropriately)
- Student stands in place for 30-60 seconds and is reminded to “Stop and think”
- Student shadows the playground supervisor for a designated period of time
- Discussion of appropriate behavior to replace inappropriate behavior (problem solving)
- Apology to another student when necessary
- Logical and real-life consequence given for inappropriate choice of behavior.
Consequence is enforced
- Time out on the bench or wall away from others for appropriate amount of time (due to severity and frequency of violation/s)
- Help Needed Form (HNF) issued to student
- Parent contact may be made by teacher or principal

General Play Ground Rules

1. Play safely
2. Respect others
3. Respect school property, greenery, and equipment
4. Play only on the asphalt surfaces
5. Follow the directions of playground supervisors
6. Due to space limitations, no running or balls allowed in the morning

These actions are not allowed:

- Bullying or intimidation
- Throwing objects, including but not limited to rocks, snowballs, and gum balls
- Running on the play sets
- Playing tag on the play sets

- Pushing, shoving, kicking, or hitting
- Football games on the blacktop areas
- Climbing on or over the fences
- Standing on, or doing tricks on swings
- Rough play such as karate, tackling, or wrestling to the ground
- Name calling or teasing

Baseball/Softball Rules:

- ✓ Only school regulated equipment (provided by the school) is allowed on the playground (includes school sponsored field trips)
- ✓ Students and volunteers are not allowed to bring their personal equipment (bats, etc.) for usage during the school day
- ✓ Unauthorized equipment will be confiscated and held until claimed by an adult
- ✓ Check with the *Physical Education* teacher if you have questions about “school regulated” equipment
- ✓ Children are inventive and will often “discover” new ways to use equipment that is not safe. Supervisors need to evaluate new situations and activities as they occur

These actions should be encouraged:

- Being tolerant and respectful of others
- Letting everyone play and participate
- Playing fair
- Taking turns and sharing

Betty Wheeler CJA Indoor Recess Procedures

There is no national temperature standard for when to keep kids inside during the winter months, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Therefore, many districts usually make their own decisions by their own assessments based upon temperature, (including wind chill factor); the condition of the play surfaces; weather forecasts; etc.

As a general guide, SLPS recommends the following winter temperature guidelines for outdoor play from Children’s Hospital: 32 degrees and above normal recess, 20-32 degrees- 15 minutes, 20 degrees or below- inside recess.

Since children benefit from vigorous, exercise and should be given the opportunity to play outside whenever possible, unless it is snowing, raining, or icy on the playground, children will play outdoors. So please make sure your child is appropriately dressed for outside play.

Our Indoor Recess Procedures are developed to keep children safe while allowing children opportunities play in a confined area. Students must listen to all adults supervising the play area whether it is a teacher, administrator, or other staff member. The staff on indoor recess duty will handle discipline. Disrespect for authority or disregard for rules and regulations will result in

disciplinary actions for the student. Only school regulated equipment (provided by the school) is allowed during indoor recess.

General Indoor Recess Rules

1. Play safely
2. Respect others
3. Respect school property and equipment
4. Play only on the gym surfaces
5. Follow the directions of supervisors
6. Due to space limitations, no running or balls allowed

These actions are not allowed:

- Bullying or intimidation
- Throwing objects, including but not limited to game pieces, etc.
- Playing or running on the stage
- Pushing, shoving, kicking, or hitting
- Climbing, standing, or doing tricks on the mats
- Rough play such as karate, tackling, or wrestling to the floor
- Name calling or teasing

These actions should be encouraged:

- Being tolerant and respectful of others
- Letting everyone play and participate
- Playing fair
- Taking turns and sharing

Consequences for Indoor Recess Rule Violations

Rule violations that involve minor, day-to-day issues and deal with following the basic rules of the school will involve remediation with the student and staff member directly involved and responsible for the supervision at the time.

- Verbal reprimand
- Redirection (redirect the student to act appropriately)
- Student stands in place for 30-60 seconds and is reminded to “Stop and think”
- Student shadows the indoor recess supervisor for a designated period of time
- Discussion of appropriate behavior to replace inappropriate behavior (problem solving)
- Apology to another student when necessary
- Logical and real-life consequence given for inappropriate choice of behavior.
Consequence is enforced

