



SAFARI SLEUTHS

RECOMMENDED AGE

GROUP:

- 5-7
- 8-10
- 11-12

ACTIVITY THEME:

Playground Safety

DURATION:

Prep Time: **5** minutes

Activity Time: **20-25** minutes

ACTIVITY PURPOSE:

Teach children how to play safely on playground equipment. Teach children the importance of playing safely and how they can spread the message to their friends.

ACTIVITY GOALS:

- Learning each other's names
- Team building and cooperation
- Building trust
- Learning a new skill
- Embracing differences and accepting diversity
- Other: Learning proper playground safety procedures

EQUIPMENT:

No specific equipment is required. If craft resources are on hand (i.e. markers, construction paper, empty toilet paper rolls, safety scissors, tape), the participants can make their own Safety Sleuth hats and binoculars!

RESOURCES

ACTIVITY AREA:

This activity will utilize all of the elements of the playground.

SAFETY:

Participants must be advised of the activity boundaries to ensure they stay within eye sight at all times.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION & INSTRUCTION

PREPARATION:

- ▶ Develop appropriate "crime scene" scenarios that can result from unsafe activities. For example::
 - A child falls off the monkey bars and hurt his/her shoulder – how/why did this happen?
 - A child hits the ground head first at the bottom of the slide – how/why did this happen?

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

- ▶ Inform the participants that they are going on a Safety Safari.
- ▶ Divide the participants into 2 groups.
- ▶ Inform the participants that there has been a safety crime and that they have been appointed the Safety Sleuths responsible for investigating and solving the crime.
- ▶ Encourage participants to put on their Sleuth gear (i.e. binoculars, trench coat and hat).
- ▶ Walk the participants though the pre-designed "crime scene" in the playground. Along the way, stop at various pieces of equipment, such as the monkey bars, swings, slide, etc. and run them though the "crime scene" scenarios.



- ▶ Each group will try to solve the “case” (i.e. how/why the unsafe activity took place). Staff will help the participants by expanding on key points that promote safety and the “crime scene” could have been prevented.

DISCUSSION POINTS: PLANNING SAFE PLAY

- ▶ What do you think happened?
- ▶ How could the injury have been avoided with proper playground safety?
- ▶ What are some other safety rules to use with this equipment?
- ▶ How can you teach your family and friends about the importance of playing safe on the playground?

GUIDED DIRECTION

- ▶ Both the staff and participants are encouraged to use their acting skills, boundless energy and crime solving abilities to ensure a fun and successful activity.
- ▶ Consider having the older participants act out the “crime scene” scenarios.
- ▶ Encourage and allow the participants to discuss their thoughts about safety.
- ▶ Ensure that all participants have an opportunity to contribute their ideas.

ACCOMMODATIONS & CONSIDERATIONS:

*ENSURE YOUR VISUALLY
IMPAIRED PARTICIPANTS
TOUCH ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT
USED IN THE CRIME SCENE*

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

We are learning about the importance of playground safety. Please review the following key playground safety messages with your children and enforce them at all times:

- ▶ Use only age-appropriate playground structures.
- ▶ Do not overcrowd a structure.
- ▶ Hang on tightly with both hands.
- ▶ Always go feet first when sliding, going down a pole or jumping off a structure.
- ▶ Stay a safe distance from structures that are in motion (e.g. swings, seesaws, merry-go-rounds, etc).
- ▶ Rules of acceptable behaviour and expectations for safe play are to be provided to participants at the beginning of the activity and reinforced when needed.