



SAFETY AMBASSADORS

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 safe and unsafe play on playground equipment. Develop leadership skills in older children. Teach older children how to be advocates for safety and to promote safe play

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, safety scissors, tape), the participants can make props to use in their skits such as signs or rules.

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:

- ▶ Pre-arrange an opportunity for the Safety Ambassadors to be at the park with the younger age groups to provide them with a playground safety demonstration.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

- ▶ Divide the participants into 3-4 teams.
- ▶ Inform the participants that they have been chosen to be Safety Ambassadors. They are being asked to create scenarios for the younger age groups (5-7 or 8-10) that show both safe and unsafe ways to use different equipment in the playground.
- ▶ Each Safety Ambassador Team will create and act out 2 scenarios for a specific piece of playground equipment. The first scenario will demonstrate the safe way to use the equipment; the second will demonstrate an unsafe way to use the equipment.
- ▶ The Program Leaders must pre-approve each team's scenarios.



- ▶ Encourage the Safety Ambassadors to involve the younger participants. For example, ask for their input on how to use playground equipment in a safe and fun way or tell them to clap their hands and cheer when they see safe activities and to boo when they see unsafe activities.
- ▶ Support the Safety Ambassadors by expanding on key points that promote safety.

DISCUSSION POINTS: LEARNING AND SHARING

- ▶ What did you learn from the different scenarios?
- ▶ How did you teach the children safety through the scenarios?
- ▶ How did you work as a group to create the scenarios and lead the children through them?

▶ GUIDED DIRECTION

- ▶ Both the staff and participants are encouraged to use their acting skills, boundless energy and teamwork!
- ▶ Encourage and allow the participants to discuss their thoughts about safety.
- ▶ Ensure that all participants have an opportunity to contribute their ideas.

▶ 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.

ACCOMMODATIONS & CONSIDERATIONS:

INCLUDE PARTICIPANTS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY BY ALLOWING THEM TO EXPLAIN IF THE SCENARIO WAS SAFE (THUMBS UP) OR UNSAFE (THUMBS DOWN)