

# Playground Supervision

Can Good Supervision Prevent all Injuries?



Melinda Bossenmeyer, Ed.D.

Peaceful  
Playgrounds®

## **Playground Supervision: Can good supervision prevent all injuries?**

By Melinda Bossenmeyer, Ed.D.  
Founder Peaceful Playgrounds Inc.

Injury data indicates that approximately 45% of injuries on playground can be attributed to either improper supervision or lack of adult supervision. Accordingly, even if this 45% of injuries were corrected by trained and active supervision, 55% of injuries would still need to be addressed. Some injuries are a result of faulty or poorly maintained playground equipment. Other injuries are known as "accidents". Accidents can occur even though proper and maintained equipment exists and adequate supervision is established.

"Accidents" occur as a result of unavoidable and unpredictable situations on the playground. For example, if a child is running on the playground and trips another child this is unpredictable or typical behavior consistent with normal playground interactions. On the other hand, if a child is swinging a rope and running throughout the playground causing other children to trip over the rope this situation is both predictable and should be stopped by a playground supervisor and therefore is clearly "not an accident".

Accidents fall into two basic categories: 1. There wasn't any indication that the behavior would occur and 2. Prior intervention would not have prevented the accident.

Injuries on the other hand are often a result of a broken piece of equipment that wasn't properly maintained or behavior that was dangerous in nature and should have been stopped by a competent supervisor or adult.

When a child falls from a piece of equipment it can be an accident if proper surfacing exists and the child was not playing in an unsafe manner. Whereas, a case where a child fell from a piece of equipment broke an arm and inadequate surfacing can be shown to contribute to the injury may be determined to be negligent and the school, day care center etc. would be liable.

Basically, "liability for playground supervision comes down to what actually caused the injury: unsafe equipment or inadequate supervision", according to the law offices of Goodwin and Scieszka in their article *Who is Liable When a Child is Injured on a Playground?*

Schools and teachers should take their supervision responsibilities seriously since the playground represents an outdoor environment where risk is greater than say sitting in a classroom while seated at a desk. While injuries are more likely to occur on a playground they can still often be avoided by training playground supervisors,

assigning supervision zones and emphasizing the supervisor's responsibility for acting in loco parentis (in place of parents) and therefore have a responsibility to keep children safe from predictable dangers.

As I travel around the country speaking to teachers about their supervision responsibilities most indicate that they have not received any training regarding their duties and responsibilities in supervising the playground. Just as teachers are trained in classroom management techniques likewise they should receive playground supervisor training for this unique outdoor environment. Additionally, schools should establish rules and procedures for establishing a safe playground environment.

# Terms of Use

## Thank you for purchasing my product!

**By purchasing this product, you are agreeing that the contents and intellectual property belongs to Dr. Melinda Bossenmeyer.**

Please note. This product is for personal use by a single teacher. A school site license is available. Contact 951-245-6970. Purchase orders are welcome.

You May:

- Use this item for personal use.
- Use with you students.
- Recommend this product to others by providing a link for preview.

You May Not:

- Give this item to others.
- Post on a website or blog.
- Send the file to others for review. (Send a link instead).

©2017 Bossenmeyer All Rights Reserved.

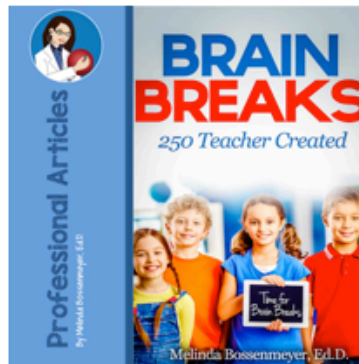
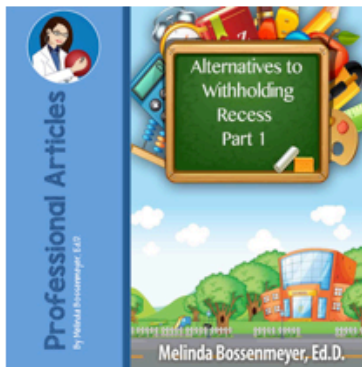
Copying any part of this product or placing it on the internet in any form is strictly forbidden. Doing so is a violation of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).

Visit my store at [www.peacefulplaygrounds.com](http://www.peacefulplaygrounds.com)



# Resources

## Professional Articles

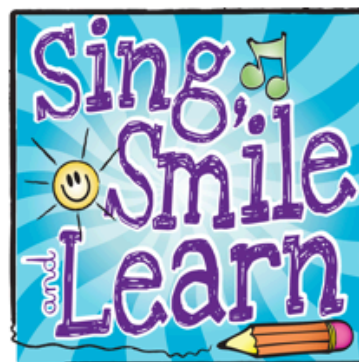
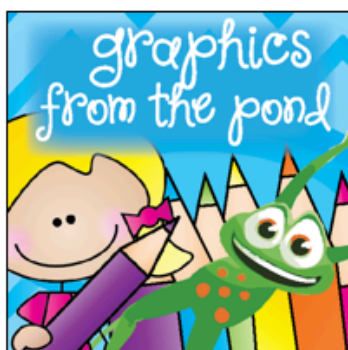


Visit my store at [www.peacefulplaygrounds.com](http://www.peacefulplaygrounds.com)



# Favorite Designers

For inspiration, unique clipart, fonts, frames and backgrounds....



Visit my store at [www.peacefulplaygrounds.com](http://www.peacefulplaygrounds.com)

