



Playground Safety

Balfour Beatty
Communities

Playground Safety Tips

At Balfour Beatty Communities, we want all residents to enjoy our playgrounds and any parks you visit safely. Playground injury is the most common school-related injury among children ages 5-14; about 80% of the most severe injuries are falls. Whatever the cause, children are at a greater risk when unsupervised.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind as you and your family head out for some playground fun:

- Children should be supervised at all times. The watchful eye of an adult can prevent injuries by making sure children are using playground equipment properly. Be sure to keep children in your line of sight at all times while they are playing.
- Before your children use the playground equipment, make sure it is safe. Look for and report any hazards including loose, rusted, or broken and dangerous surfaces like concrete or gravel.
- Teach your children how to act responsibly while at play. Children should never push or roughhouse with others on playground equipment. When using slides or swings, remember to teach children to always slide feet first and sit on swings—never stand.
- Watch out for wet playground equipment. Keep in mind wet playground equipment can be slippery and unsafe.
- Be careful of metal. The metal on most playground equipment can become dangerously hot in warmer months. Make sure children do not play on any equipment that feels uncomfortable to the touch, as burning can occur.
- Avoid wearing clothes with drawstrings as well as necklaces and other jewelry. These can easily get caught on playground equipment and are strangulation hazards.
- Don't forget to stay hydrated. Be sure your children sip water frequently—before, during, and after play.