

PLAYGROUND SAFETY POLICY

The Casa Vera Montessori School will provide a well-maintained, creative and safe environment for children.

The outdoor program plan will provide the games and activities enhancing gross motor play as well as creative stimulation and will be posted and available for the parents.

Required staff ratio will be maintained on the playground at all times. The staff will ensure supervision of children on playground to provide a safe outdoor play environment.

The equipment or renovations, repairs or replacements will be installed in compliance with the requirements set out in the Canadian Standards Association standard CAN/CSA-Z614-14, "Children's playspaces and equipment", as amended from time to time..This will be verified in writing by an independent certified playground inspector and confirmation will be in the respective file.

The Playground Safety Policy will be reviewed by staff, students and volunteers prior commencing employment and on annually thereafter. A written record of the review will be signed by the staff as well as the person who made the review, and kept on file for at least **three years** from the time of entry.

Playground Safety Requirements

Daily Visual Inspections

Designated teacher will check the playground daily and log the results of inspection in the Daily Visual Playground Inspection Safety Log Book.

Monthly Maintenance Inspections

A detailed inspection shall be carried out every month and the results and actions taken entered in the Monthly Playground Inspection Safety Log Book.

Annual Inspections

Once an annual inspection report is completed, we will prepare based on the information contained in the report a plan of action, including timeframes to address each specific issue.

The results of the inspection and a plan of action shall be entered in a permanent record that can be examined.

The Principal is responsible for recording into the Playground Safety Log the results of monthly, annual and irregular inspections. Playground Safety Log Book is posted in the Principal's office or staff room.

Repairs, removal or installation of equipment, including dates and companies are recorded in the Playground Repair Logbook.

Accident / Illness / Injury Report to be issued in case of an accident. Accidents and/or injuries are recorded in the **Accident / Illness / Injury Log Book**.

The accident to be also logged into classroom **Daily Logbook**.

How identified issues or problems will be addressed

All **repairs** are carried out **as quickly as possible**. All repairs and renovations will be recorded in the Playground Repair Logbook.

If we spot problems that we can remedy ourselves (like loose toys, trash etc.), we will correct the problem **right away**.

If we observe other safety problems like broken equipment we will fix it **as soon as possible** or the equipment will be **taken out of service** until the problem is fixed.

Hazards which could **kill or seriously hurt** a child (strangulation hazards, head and neck entrapment hazards etc.) should be **fixed immediately** or the equipment will be **taken out of service immediately** until the problem is fixed.

Supervising teacher responsibilities

1. Check the children before admitting them the play-ground. Take off anything that could strangle him/her. This includes strings, drawstrings, scarves and skipping ropes. No tie-on hats may be worn. Other loose objects like necklaces should also be removed.

Encourage parents to provide child with a neck warmer rather than a scarf, and use mitten clips rather than cords.

2. Children have to wear running shoes with non-slip soles.
3. Consider sun safety and limit exposure to sun when children are playing outdoors.

Survey the playground site

1. Inspect the playground in compliance with daily Playground Safety Logbook.
2. Do not allow children to playground if condition of playground/equipment is considered unsafe and dangerous.
3. Report any unsafe condition immediately to the Principal.

General rules

- The teacher should show to children how to use the equipment properly.
- All staff members must have a full view of all children in the playground.
- The teacher must be actively involved with the children.
- Staff must constantly move so that the children are within their reach.
- No conversation or sitting on one spot is allowed.
- Reading, chatting and resting is not allowed.

Supervising teacher should assure that children:

- are not engaged in play that involves hitting, kicking, pushing, tripping or general fighting
- share playground equipment fairly
- wait to his/her turn
- seek help from a teacher when they have problems they can't handle alone
- do not run around carrying sticks from the ground

Preschool toys and play equipment will always remain in the fenced playground area. Playground gates are locked all the time and children are not allowed to go outside the fenced playground area.

Gardening

- We will use gardening **soil and plants** that are **safe** for children and staff.
- Soil **must not** contain **manure**, or other products **containing fecal matter or chemicals**.
- **Chemical** pesticides and/or herbicides are **not allowed** to be used..

Children are **supervised** during gardening activities.

- Do **not allow** children to place their hands or objects into their mouth or eat soil or plants during gardening.
- Outdoor gardens must be located in **an area** that is **safe** for children.

- **Use** gardening tools **appropriate** for children.
- Staff and children **have to wash their hands** with soap and water after participating in gardening activities.

When **planning a garden** it is important to consider previous and current land use practices of neighbouring properties. Some actions to consider include:

- Build a raised bed garden (child-sized plots) or use planters or pots.
- Protect soil from animals (e.g., mesh, fencing).
- Wash produce thoroughly.
- Peel root vegetables before you eat them.
- Eliminate stagnant water to prevent mosquito breeding sites.
- Select plants that are not poisonous. Special care should be taken in selecting those that do not cause allergic reactions.

Playground tree

The tree will be checked visually for loose and dead branches each day. If there are discovered the branches on the tree, which may pose a hazard to children, the children are not allowed on the playground until the tree is trimmed.

Weather

Note that when the weather is poor or the city has issued a “smog alert,” meaning the air quality is very poor, the staff will instead keep the children inside.