

MEMO

To: Sacramento Diocese – All Members
From: Irina Ganchenko, Claims Risk Manager
Date: May 16, 2025
RE: Summer Playground & Equipment Checks

Before launching VBS, summer camps, or outdoor youth events, take time to inspect your **playgrounds and outdoor spaces** to make sure they're safe for every age group. Here's your **quick-start checklist** to get your play areas ready:

✓ **Basic Safety Checklist**

- Tighten loose bolts or fasteners
- Remove tripping hazards like roots, rocks, or debris
- Check surfacing depth: at least 9–12 inches of mulch, sand, or rubber
- Look for sharp edges, splinters, or broken parts – repair or block access
- Lubricate moving parts to reduce wear and tear
- Inspect fencing – make sure it's secure and at least 48" high if near streets or parking

📌 **Age-Appropriate Play Matters**

- Post age-appropriate signage so older kids aren't using toddler equipment (Examples: Toddlers 6–23 months, Preschool 2–5 years, Grade School 5–12 years)
- Keep age groups separated, when possible, to avoid injuries
- Post "Adult Supervision Required" signs where families or the public may use your playground

⚠️ **Additional Safety Tips**

- No helmets, drawstrings, or hoodies on play equipment, these pose strangulation risks
- Watch for hot surfaces during summer heat (slides, metal parts)
- Inspect fencing or barriers if your playground is near streets or parking lots

If you need help identifying repair priorities or planning a safer play area, please contact me.

Blessings,

Irina Ganchenko

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