

<b>Supervision</b>	<b>2000 %</b>	<b>2004 %</b>	<b>2000 Grade</b>	<b>2004 Grade</b>
Adults present	93	84	A-	B-
Easily viewed	96	89	A	B+
Crawl spaces	89	72	B+	C-
Supervision rules posted	6	3	F	F
<b>Overall Grade: Supervision</b>			<b>B-</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>Age-Appropriate Design</b>	<b>2000 %</b>	<b>2004 %</b>	<b>2000 Grade</b>	<b>2004 Grade</b>
Had separate areas	49	26	F	F
Signage for age group provided	6	5	F	F
Provided change of direction	92	87	A-	B+
Had guardrails	92	87	A-	B+
Prevented climbing outside the structure	74	80	C	B-
Supporting structure prevented climbing on	79	80	C+	B-
<b>Overall Grade: Age - Appropriate Design</b>			<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>Fall Surfacing</b>	<b>2000 %</b>	<b>2004 %</b>	<b>2000 Grade</b>	<b>2004 Grade</b>
Suitable materials provided	71	73	C-	C-
Heights of equipment 8 feet or lower	NA	99	NA	A
Appropriate depth of loose fill	44	9	F	F
Six foot use zone had appropriate surface	62	53	D-	F
Concrete footings were covered	89	95	B+	A
Free of foreign objects	89	81	B+	B-
<b>Overall Grade: Fall Surfacing</b>			<b>C</b>	<b>C+</b>
<b>Equipment Maintenance</b>	<b>2000 %</b>	<b>2004 %</b>	<b>2000 Grade</b>	<b>2004 Grade</b>
Free of broken parts	85	86	B	B
Free of missing parts	85	90	B	A-
Free of protruding bolts	83	83	B-	B-
Free of noticeable gaps	75	65	C	D
Free of head entrapments	81	71	B-	C-
Free of rust	79	74	C+	C
Free of splinter	80	71	B-	C-
Free of cracks/holes	95	96	A	A
<b>Overall Grade: Equipment Maintenance</b>			<b>B-</b>	<b>C+</b>

<b>Playground Equipment Profile*</b>		
<b>Year of installation</b>	<b>2004</b>	
Pre 1980	7%	
1981-1990	12%	
1991-1994	17%	
1995-1997	18%	
1998-present	42%	
Not available	15%	
<b>Kinds of Equipment**</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2004</b>
Slides	89%	94%
Swings	66%	50%
Horizontal ladders	35%	20%
Sliding poles	25%	13%
Chinning bars	15%	6%
Seesaws	25%	20%
Merry-go-rounds	17%	8%
Geodesic domes	15%	7%
<p>* The number in these columns indicates the percentages of the year of installation. These may contain a combination of different installation years at each playground site. NA represents percentages that are not available.</p> <p>** The numbers in these columns reflect percentages of equipment pieces were found.</p> <p>Grading Scale: A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=59&gt;</p>		

# United States Child Care Grade:

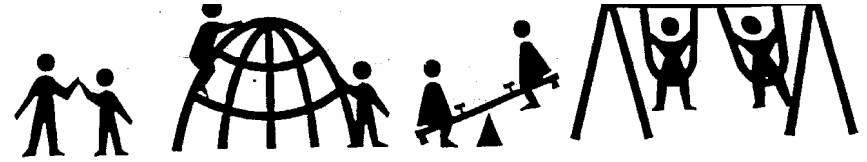
**2000**  
**C+**

**2004**  
**C+**

## Comments

The United States child care centers received an overall grade of C+ for the 2004 report card. This is the same grade from the 2000 report card when the United States child care centers received a grade of C+.

Forty-four percent of the child care centers (22) in the United States improved their grades. However, greater improvements need to be made in areas of supervision, age appropriate design, fall surfacing, and equipment maintenance if children are to have A playgrounds. Specifically, the posting of rules, separating play spaces, and maintaining the appropriate depth of loose-fill materials will improve the safety of playgrounds. By working together, child care centers can help ensure that playgrounds are SAFE for America's children.



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# The National Program For Playground Safety America's Playgrounds Safety Report Card 2004

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The National Program for Playground Safety is housed at the University of Northern Iowa. For additional information about playground safety, contact the National Program for Playground Safety at the following address:

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<http://www.playgroundsafety.org>  
*America's playgrounds  
Make them safe*

# United States

# Child Care