

Supervision	2000 %	2004 %	2000 Grade	2004 Grade
Adults present	81	81	B-	B-
Easily viewed	95	88	A	B+
Crawl spaces	90	71	A-	C-
Supervision rules posted	10	8	F	F
Overall Grade: Supervision			B-	C
Age-Appropriate Design	2000 %	2004 %	2000 Grade	2004 Grade
Had separate areas	41	29	F	F
Signage for age group provided	6	9	F	F
Provided change of direction	92	92	A-	A-
Had guardrails	91	91	A-	A-
Prevented climbing outside the structure	71	82	C-	B-
Supporting structure prevented climbing on	78	83	C+	B-
Overall Grade: Age - Appropriate Design			C	C+
Fall Surfacing	2000 %	2004 %	2000 Grade	2004 Grade
Suitable materials provided	78	82	C+	B-
Heights of equipment 8 feet or lower	NA	95	NA	A
Appropriate depth of loose fill	47	19	F	F
Six foot use zone had appropriate surface	67	71	D+	C-
Concrete footings were covered	88	93	B+	A-
Free of foreign objects	84	80	B	B-
Overall Grade: Fall Surfacing			C	B-
Equipment Maintenance	2000 %	2004 %	2000 Grade	2004 Grade
Free of broken parts	83	84	B-	B
Free of missing parts	81	89	B-	B+
Free of protruding bolts	81	85	B-	B
Free of noticeable gaps	75	70	C	C-
Free of head entrapments	79	79	C+	C+
Free of rust	63	74	D-	C
Free of splinter	61	65	D-	D
Free of cracks/holes	92	96	A-	A
Overall Grade: Equipment Maintenance			C+	B-

Playground Equipment Profile*		
Year of installation	2004	
Pre 1980	12%	
1981-1990	15%	
1991-1994	18%	
1995-1997	18%	
1998-present	43%	
Not available	9%	
Kinds of Equipment**	2000	2004
Slides	91%	94%
Swings	72%	61%
Horizontal ladders	52%	66%
Sliding poles	41%	34%
Chinning bars	26%	23%
Seesaws	20%	13%
Merry-go-rounds	14%	7%
Geodesic domes	15%	10%
<small>* 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.</small>		
<small>** The numbers in these columns reflect percentages of equipment pieces were found.</small>		
<small>Grading Scale: A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=59></small>		

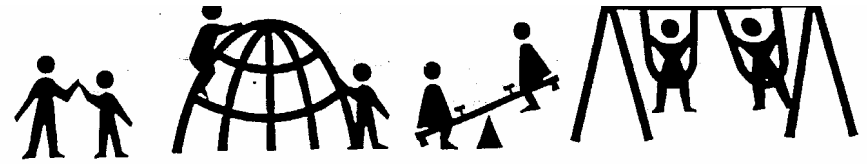
United States Grade:

2000

C

2004

C+



Comments

The United States received an overall grade of C+ for the 2004 report card. This is a slight improvement from the 2000 report card when the nation received a grade of C. Both report cards are based on a comprehensive survey of childcare, school, and park playgrounds.

Fifty-four percent of states (27) 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.

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:

National Program for Playground Safety
School of Health, Physical Education, and Leisure Services
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0618

800/554-PLAY (7529)

Fax: 319/273-7308

e-mail: playground-safety@uni.edu

World Wide Web:
<http://www.playgroundsafety.org>

*America's playgrounds
Make them safe*

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

United States