

Family Child Care Homes – Outdoor Safety Checklist

The home must provide outdoor daily outdoor play for all ages of children***Weather permitting

GENERAL

- There must be at least 75 sq feet of useable outdoor play space for each child
- Play space must have a 42 inch fence or natural barrier*
- All parts of the play area must be visible and easily supervised
- Shade must be available
- Decks 12 inches or higher must have a protective barrier or railing
- SLATS on railing must be no more than 4 inches apart
- Areas under deck must be inaccessible to children
- Tiered yards higher than 12 inches must have railing or protective barrier
- Outdoor area must be free of all animal contamination/waste
- Window wells must have protective cover
- Outdoor play areas are free of lawn mowers, tools, propane, building/metal scraps
- Grills must be covered and Propane must be OFF
- Walkways must be cleared of snow and ice
- Check area for trash, debris, foreign materials, and cracked/broken toys & equipment
- Check for tripping hazards (weed mat, wires, etc)

WATER AREAS

- Swimming pools, above ground pools and permanent wading pool must be locked and enclosed with a 5 foot fence
- Hot tubs must be secured and locked
- Decorative ponds must have child proof gates to prevent drowning
- Children must be directly and actively supervision near standing water

EQUIPMENT

- Tree houses must be inaccessible to children in care
- Trampolines must be totally inaccessible to children. ****USE IS PROHIBITED**
- NO MOTORIZED** riding toys are allowed
- Helmets, Wrist protection, Knee and Elbow pads for scooters, bicycles, skateboards and rollerblades.
- Permanent climbing equipment must have at least 4 inches of protective surface

****BY 12/31/10- there must be at least 6 inches or protective surface**

- Sand may be used as a protective surface when regularly raked
 - ***If sand is compacted or lost resiliency or depth, the provider shall immediately comply with a plan to replace the sand with another approved protective surface. When surfacing becomes frozen equipment must be off limits until resiliency can be re-established**
- All Portable climbing equipment over two feet in height must have protective surface
- Swing sets and permanent climbing equipment must meet the Fall Zone requirements