Safe Outdoor Environments Checklist

Equipment Spacing:
- Fall zones extend at least three feet on all sides of equipment.
- Play structures with surfaces between eighteen inches and thirty-two inches high are spaced at least three feet apart.
- Fall zones do not overlap the fall zones of other equipment.

For children under age 2:
- All climbing equipment is less than thirty-two inches high.
- Ramps are provided instead of ladders.
- Spiral slides (if used) are less than 360 degrees.
- Swings have full bucket seats.
- The flat exit region of slides is seven to ten inches long and the exit height is 6 inches or less.
- All play surfaces over eighteen inches high have protective barriers around the platform.

For all children:
- There are no entanglement hazards: protruding bolts or open S-hooks on swings.
- Openings in guardrails, ladder rungs, fence slats, and other spaces measure less than 3.5 inches or greater than nine inches.
- Moving pieces of play equipment (seesaws, bridges) do not have accessible moving parts.
- There are no sharp points, corners, or edges on play equipment or other objects in the space.

Outdoor Activity Areas:
- All toys, equipment and materials are in good repair and are nontoxic.
- The playground meets all Consumer Products Safety Commission standards for equipment and fall protection surfacing.
- There is adequate fall protection surface under the equipment (sand, mulch, etc. is replenished; rubberized surface is not torn, no holes, etc.).
- To prevent injury from falls, climbing equipment is the proper size for the children using it.
- Climbing equipment is in good repair. Broken equipment is off limits. (Equipment is sturdy and properly installed; broken equipment is not used until repaired.)
- There are no broken riding toys, sand or water toys, balls, equipment, etc.
- Glass doors are clearly marked (at child’s eye level) to avoid accidental impact.
- The fence is in good repair with no safety hazards. Panic hardware is operable.
- There is no trash, litter, weeds, animal waste, or debris on the grounds (outside trash cans have lids and are emptied at least weekly).