A Parent's Guide to

Backyard Play

Kidsafe
Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia
Western Australia



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

www.kidsafewa.com.au

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Backyard play

Play is an essential part of childhood that provides children with a range of physical and cognitive benefits. Providing a creative outdoor play environment in your backyard allows children to grow and develop new skills in a safe and secure environment.

While it's great to get children outdoors, it's important to think about their safety and how you can reduce the risk of serious injuries. Many childhood injuries happen in and around the home environment, with most of these happening to children under five. The backyard or garden
area is the most common location within the home for childhood injuries to occur.

Most injuries that happen in the backyard are from falls, often from play equipment onto hard surfaces. Other risk factors include broken equipment, lack of backyard maintenance, minimal supervision and other hazards such as water, poisons and backyard sheds.

The good news is that there are lots of ways you can reduce the risk of injury in your backyard. This guide provides information on common injuries that can happen to children, and simple tips to help you to provide and maintain a safe and fun backyard for everyone.



Key steps to preventing injuries

To create a safe backyard and reduce the risk of injuries for your children and visitors, we recommend following these three key steps:

1. **Spot the hazards**
   Look for dangers and hazards in your backyard and anywhere children can access. Get down low and look at the backyard from your child's perspective.

2. **Decide how to deal with the hazard**
   Make a decision on how to best protect children from the hazard. This guide will provide you with tips to deal with a range of different hazards including:

   - Removing the hazard.
   - Guarding against the hazard, if you are unable to remove it.
   - Supervising children closely around hazards and keeping them within arm's reach.

3. **Make the changes**
   Injuries often happen when we least expect it, so it's important to act immediately once a hazard has been identified.

There can be a lot of things to look out for in a typical backyard, especially when exposed to harsh weather and being used by multiple people in the family.

It's always going to be hard to keep your backyard 100% safe, so it's important to be prepared if an injury or accident does happen. It's a good idea to take a first aid course and to have emergency contact numbers on hand for when they are needed.



Play equipment

Providing play equipment in the backyard is a great way for children to develop their physical strength and abilities. Just like public playgrounds, it's important that backyard equipment is well maintained and appropriate for the age of children using it.

There is currently an Australian Standard for toys and playground equipment used in domestic settings (AS/NZS 8124.6). You can reduce the risk of serious injury to children by ensuring backyard play equipment meets this standard, is installed correctly and well maintained.

Note: The safety requirements outlined in the above standard has been simplified for the purpose of this guide. Contact Kidsafe WA for detailed information on Australian Standards.

Purchasing and installing play equipment:

- Choose play equipment that has the Australian Standards 'tick' logo.
- Be aware of safety features for specific equipment. Don't assume that all products in store and online are safe.
- Ensure play equipment is strong, sturdy and made from good quality materials.
- Avoid purchasing poor quality equipment online or from international websites that will unlikely meet the Australian Standards.
- Provide play equipment that is suitable for your child's age, size and stage of development. Look at product age recommendation for guidance.
- Carefully read assembly and installation instructions. This may include safety warnings and information on appropriate surfacing.
- Ensure larger play equipment including trampolines are securely anchored to the ground.



Play equipment

Safety tips for play equipment:

- Play equipment should not exceed 2.5m in height for older children, and 1.8m for younger children.
- Position play equipment away from backyard fences and other equipment to allow enough room for safe play.
- Position play equipment in a shaded area that is easily supervised and accessible for adults.
- Ensure equipment is surrounded by appropriate surfacing and never used on hard surfaces such as concrete or bricks.
- Play equipment should not have any sharp edges or protruding parts that could pierce a child's skin or catch on their clothing.
- Play equipment should not contain gaps or openings where a child could become trapped, especially by the head or neck. Gaps that may trap limbs, fingers, hair or clothing should also be avoided.
- Ensure any elevated platforms have guardrails or barriers in place to reduce the risk of falling.
- Ensure ladders and platform steps are securely attached to equipment.
- Regularly check and maintain all play equipment for wear and tear and other safety hazards.



Note: Use the checklist in the back of this guide to know what to look out for.

Surfacing for play equipment

Falls from play equipment are a common cause of injury for children[1]. Providing suitable impact-absorbing surfacing underneath and around play equipment can cushion a child during a fall and reduce the risk and severity of head and other injuries.

Safety tips for surfacing:

- For any elevated or moving play equipment such as cubby houses, slides and swings, provide impact-absorbing surfacing under and around the equipment.
- For any stationary equipment over 600mm in height, provide impact-absorbing surfacing around the equipment.
- For any swinging equipment, provide impact-absorbing surfacing under swing seats. Extend surfacing as far as a child could fall if jumping from the swing seat.
- Suitable surfacing is made from materials that are impact-absorbing that provides cushioning for a child if they fall.
- Suitable materials can include shredded bark mulch, wood chips, and non-compacting sand, installed at a minimum depth of 30cm.
- To maintain it's cushioning properties, materials should be regularly checked and replenished to maintain the correct depth.
- For temporary surfacing, consider using safety mats that meet safety standards.

Note: Grass may be suitable if well maintained, however it is not recommended as surfacing. Grass can become compact over time and is likely to wear quickly in areas of high traffic (underneath swings and at the end of slides).



Slides

Slides are enjoyable for children of all ages. Slides allow children to have fun while developing their balance and coordination skills. Depending on the size and type of slide you have in your backyard, there are a few safety considerations to be aware of.

Safety tips for slides:

- Avoid buying slides made from metal as these may reach high temperatures when exposed to sunlight. Choose slides made from plastic or fibreglass and ensure shade is provided over the sliding surface.
- Slides should not have any spaces or gaps that could trap a child's clothing, hair or fingers on their way down. Check for small gaps at the starting point of the slide.
- Provide a clear area to either side of the slide and around the base. Slides should be positioned away from fences, and other play equipment to avoid collisions.
- Provide impact-absorbing surfacing around the end of the slide and to the sides of the slide.
- Ensure the slide is easy for children to access. There should be a platform at the top of the slide for children to easily move from standing to sitting down.
- For slides over 1m in height, ensure handrails or a crossbar are provided at the entrance to the slide. This can help children to keep their balance when sitting down to use the slide.
- Regularly check slide attachments and sliding surfaces for damage. Fibreglass slides may start to splinter over time.
- Always supervise children and ensure they know how to use a slide safely. This can include making sure the slide is clear before going down.



1 Kidsafe Western Australia Childhood Injury Report: Playground Injuries. Perth (WA): Kidsafe WA (AU); 2021 July.

Swings

Swings are a favourite pastime for many children. Having access to a swing in the backyard can be beneficial for children's sensory integration. As swings can create fast movement for children, there is an increased risk of injury if they are not installed correctly or well maintained.

Safety tips for swings:

- Swing frames should be strong, sturdy, and firmly anchored into the ground. Ensure frames are free-standing and not attached to other equipment.
- If attaching a swing to a building frame, ensure attachment points are secure.
- If attaching a swing seat to a tree, choose a thick horizontal branch that is strong enough to support the swing.



- If using tyre or rope swings, ensure they are securely attached and are able to support the weight of your child.
- Swings should be installed in a large, clear space, away from fences, sandpits, trampolines and other equipment.
- Swing seats should be made from soft and flexible material.
- Provide impact-absorbing surfacing underneath swings. As children may jump off a moving swing, surfacing should extend to the front and back of swing seat.
- Openings between chain links should be small enough so they do not trap small fingers. To avoid entrapment, cover chains with plastic sheaths.
- Regularly check swing seats and attachments for sharp protruding parts.
- Regularly check swing chains for damage, wear and tear, and rust. Swing chains can wear down over time and become rusted when exposed to weather.

Toddler swings

While toddler swings can be a fun sensory activity, it is vital that they are installed correctly and only used under constant active supervision to reduce the risk of fall injuries.

Safety tips for toddler swings:

- Only allow toddlers to use a swing once they have strong head and neck control.
- Toddler swing seats should be provided with a back and safety harness to prevent a child falling from the seat.
- Ensure a safety harness is always in tact and used correctly to secure the child in the swing.
- Provide impact-absorbing surfacing underneath swing to protect against fall injuries. Portable safety mats that meet the Australian Standard are recommended.
- If swing is attached to a frame, ensure attachment points are secure and that the frame is used on a flat surface.
- If no frame is provided, ensure swing includes suspension connectors. Avoid using swings that require you to knot the swing ropes yourself.
- Always follow manufacturer guidelines to ensure the swing is installed correctly.
- Always provide active supervision when using a toddler swing, and never leave a child alone in the swing seat.



Monkey bars

Using monkey bars can be a fun way for children to develop important upper-body and core strength. While they are a great addition to backyard play, it is vital that monkey bars meet key safety requirements to reduce the risk of serious fall injuries.

Safety tips for monkey bars:

- Monkey bar frames should be strong, sturdy, and firmly anchored to the ground.
- Ensure impact-absorbing surfacing is provided underneath monkey bars, and at least 1.8m to either side of frame.
- Ensure the area beneath monkey bars is kept free from other play equipment and other children.
- Ensure monkey bars do not provide easy access to other heights such as roofs and sheds.
- Ensure monkey bars do not exceed 2.5m in height. Choose a height that is suitable for your child's age and stage of development.
- Ensure children can easily reach the first rung of monkey bars.
- Ensure there are no gaps between monkey bar rungs that could trap a child by the head or neck.
- Regularly check monkey bars for damage, wear and tear and rust.



Climbing equipment

Climbing equipment can provide children with opportunities to develop their upper-body strength and hand-eye coordination while at play. Particularly for young children, low-height climbing equipment can help to improve their balance.

Safety tips for climbing equipment:

- For younger children, provide low-height climbing equipment until they have developed their climbing abilities.
- For older children, ensure climbing equipment does not exceed 2.5m in height.
- Provide impact-absorbing surfacing underneath climbing equipment, and at least 1.8m around the frame.
- Position climbing equipment on a flat surface away from other play equipment.
- Ensure climbing equipment does not provide access to other heights such as roofs.
- Ensure large climbing frames are strong, sturdy, and securely anchored to the ground.
- Ensure openings in climbing nets cannot trap a child by the head or neck.
- Ensure hand grips or ropes are securely attached to the frame.



Trampolines

Trampolines are a staple piece of equipment in most Australian backyards. While trampolines can provide hours of fun for children, they are also the top cause of playground equipment-related injury for children in WA[2].

Child injuries on trampolines can be caused by a number of risk factors. These can include lack of regular maintenance, minimal supervision and using trampolines that do not meet the Australian Standard. Common injuries on trampolines include fractures, sprains and strains, dislocations, lacerations and head injuries.

Purchasing & installing trampolines:

- When buying a trampoline, ensure it meets the Australian Standard AS 4989. Look for the 'tick' logo on the product.
- Choose a trampoline with a safety net and soft padding that covers the frame and spring system.
- Carefully read the safety, installation and maintenance instructions supplied with the trampoline.
- Ensure you have adequate space in your backyard to fit a trampoline. Trampolines should be placed on a flat surface and away from fences and other play equipment
- Ensure there is a minimum overhead clearance of 8m from the ground level. Keep clear of clothes lines, trees and wires).
- Never set up a trampoline on concrete or bricks which could cause serious injury.
- Ensure impact-absorbing surfacing is provided around the edge of the trampoline. This should extend to at least 2.5m for open trampolines, and 1.5m for trampolines with an enclosed safety net.
- To increase stability and avoid movement in strong winds, secure the trampoline legs to the ground.



2 Kidsafe Western Australia Childhood Injury Report: Playground Injuries. Perth (WA): Kidsafe WA (AU); 2021 July.

Trampolines

Safety tips for trampolines:

- Always provide active supervision when children are using the trampoline, particularly for younger children at higher risk of injury.
- It is recommended that children are at least 6 years old before using trampolines that are over 0.5m high.
- Only allow one child to use the trampoline at a time to avoid collision injuries.
- Ensure the area beneath the trampoline is free from objects such as bikes and play equipment. Supervise young children to ensure they do not walk underneath the trampoline.
- Teach children to jump in the centre of the mat and to keep their eyes on the trampoline for balance.
- Ensure children do not wear shoes on the trampoline and do not have any toys or objects with them while bouncing.
- Regularly check the trampoline for any damage. Ensure there are no tears or holes in the mat, springs are attached, and leg braces are securely locked in place.
- Replace the trampoline net as soon as there are any tears or weaknesses spotted in the material.

Trampoline safety—it's flippin' important!

Find out some more trampoline safety tips from Australian Olympian trampolinist Blake Gaudry. Watch Kidsafe WA's short animation to discover the '5 golden rules of trampoline safety' to reduce the risk of injury for your kids.

Animation can be found at: www.youtube.com/@KidsafeWA



Cubby houses

A cubby house can be a creative and imaginary play space for children. Cubby houses can be made from a range of materials and can provide endless play opportunities for children of all ages.

Safety tips for cubby houses:

- When purchasing or building a cubby house ensure that it is the appropriate size for your children and can be easily accessible by supervising adults.
- Having a cubby house at ground level can reduce the risk of fall injuries.
- If your cubby house is elevated off the ground, ensure impact-absorbing surfacing is provided around the cubby house.
- Guardrails and handrails can help to reduce the risk of falls from cubby houses that are at an elevated height.
- If building a cubby house, avoid using CCA treated timber. Consider alternative products to treat timber before use.
- Cubby houses should be positioned where they do not provide easy access to other heights such as trees and roofs.
- Any openings in cubby houses should be small enough so they do not trap fingers or clothing.
- Regularly check cubby houses for broken parts, splinters, sharp edges, spiders and insects.



Sandpits

Sandpits are a fun way for children to engage in sensory play. Having a sandpit in the backyard can provide opportunities for children to be creative and to use their imagination by building and constructing objects out of sand.

Safety tips for sandpits:

- Sandpits are great for quiet play. It is best to position them in an area of the backyard away from other play equipment and walkways.
- Position your sandpit in an area that is well shaded and accessible for supervision.
- It is best to use washed beach or river sand for your sandpit. Avoid using builders or brick sand as it compacts easily.
- To keep the sand contained in one area, install sandpit edges made from timber logs or pavers. Avoid using CCA treated timber.
- Add additional features to your sandpit such as creek beds and boulders. Large boulders should be positioned where they cannot easily be moved or tilted.
- To best protect your sandpit from contaminants such as animal faeces, use a sandpit cover when not in use. A shade cloth cover works well to avoid water pooling on top.
- Regularly inspect your sandpit to remove debris, sticks and other contaminants. Sand should be regularly raked to aerate and to avoid compaction.



Nature play

Including natural elements in your backyard is an easy and affordable way to provide play opportunities for children without having to purchase equipment. Nature play allows children to develop their imagination and creativity skills, and has shown to have a positive impact on children's overall well-being.

Nature play areas are often unstructured spaces that allow for learning activities and spontaneous play. These areas can include natural items such as logs, sticks, boulders, rocks, stones, plants, tree nuts and other natural materials.

Safety tips for nature play areas:

Rocks and boulders

- Rocks and boulders are great for edging sandpits and digging patches. Avoid using rocks or boulders with sharp edges.
- Ensure larger boulders are positioned on a flat surface where they cannot be moved or pushed over.

Digging patches

- Digging areas can be incorporated into existing plant or vegetable patches.
- Ensure the area is free from contamination such as animal faeces or fertilisers containing poisonous chemicals.

Creek beds

- If adding water to nature play, ensure adequate drainage is provided to prevent pooling of water.
- Use rocks and stones for edging creek beds. Avoid using small pebbles for children under 3 years of age.

Plants and shrubs

- Planting small trees and shrubs can create protected play areas and learning opportunities for children.
- Always choose plants that are not poisonous for children or pets.



Loose parts

Loose parts are items and materials that children can move, adapt, control, change and manipulate within their play. Having loose parts for backyard play can provide many opportunities for creativity with endless possibilities for how they can be used.

Loose parts can include anything such as sticks, branches, pine cones, shells, tyres, ropes, PVC pipes, old kitchenware, egg cartons, cardboard boxes, milk cartons and pool noodles.

Safety tips for loose play items:

- Provide a flat and easily accessible area for loose parts play, away from fences and other play equipment.
- Ensure sticks and logs are free from sharp protruding edges.
- Collect tree nuts and pine cones for loose parts play. Ensure small nuts are avoided for children under 3 years of age.
- If using rubber tyres, paint the inside of the tyres white to easily spot spiders and other insects.
- Create a safe storage area for loose play parts and encourage children to pack away items after use. This will help to avoid trips and other hazards when not in use.
- Always provide active supervision while children are using loose play items. Ensure boundaries and rules are established.
- Regularly check loose play items for broken or damaged parts, protruding nails or screws, sharp edges, and any spiders or other insects.



Shade

When providing play spaces in the backyard, it's important to consider adequate shade options. Shade is essential for all outdoor spaces to minimise exposure to UV radiation. Excessive sun exposure for children can increase their risk of skin cancer later in life.

Providing effective shade in your backyard can help to create comfortable usable playspaces for both children and supervising adults. A well shaded backyard can help to reduce temperatures and sun glare, encouraging children to play outdoors in a safe and protected environment.

Safety tips for providing shade in the backyard:

- Utilise any existing shade in your backyard when creating new playspaces for children.
- Consider common areas for play activities when choosing and planting new trees or greenery in the backyard.
- If natural shade is not available, consider installing shade sails or other shade structures over common play areas.
- Provide children with other means of protection from UV radiation such as hats, protective clothing and SPF30+ sunscreen.
- Where minimal shade is available in the backyard, encourage children to stay indoors during the hottest hours of the day.
- Remember that UV radiation in Australia is high all year round, so sun protection is needed in all seasons.



Safe play areas

It's not always feasible to remove a hazard from your backyard, especially for backyard features such as pools and fish-ponds. Particularly for young children, it's important to create a safe play area to separate them from any potential hazards.

Safety tips for creating a safe play area:

- Provide a fenced off play area for young children away from any driveways, vehicles, pools and other hazards.
- Provide engaging play activities in the area that are appropriate for your child's age and stage of development.
- Ensure your safe play area is clearly visible to adults where children can easily be supervised.
- Use safe play areas to separate young children from any pets or animals that may harm them.
- Make sure all family members and visitors are aware of designated safe play areas.
- As children are old enough, ensure they are aware of safe areas of the backyard and what areas are 'out of bounds'.
- Fences around the backyard or safe play area should be well maintained without large gaps and sharp edges.
- Remember that a safe play area does not replace the need for supervision. Always provide active supervision for young children in the backyard.



Garage & shed safety

Most backyards will contain items needed to maintain the area, including pool chemicals, fertilisers, tools and machinery. These can put young children at risk of serious injury and should be securely stored in a garage or backyard shed.

Safety tips for safe backyard storage:

- Keep hazardous items in a locked garage or shed that cannot be easily accessed by small children.
- Door locks should be child-resistant and keys should be stored away safely out of reach of children.
- Store BBQs and gas bottles in a locked shed or garage when not in use.
- Keep all potential poisons up high and away, in a locked cupboard. Always place products back in safe storage after use.
- Keep poisons in their original containers for product safety information and to avoid accidental consumption.
- Keep all machinery and garden tools locked away. Always unplug electrical tools when not in use.
- Do not allow young children to operate lawnmowers. Once children are old enough, demonstrate safe use of the lawnmower and ensure protective gear is provided including long pants, earmuffs and eye wear.

Common poisons in the backyard:

Fertilisers, weed killers, insecticides, insect repellent, fuel, de-greasers, paints, motor oil, propane gas, pool chemicals and cleaning products. These poisons should always be stored safely as they can be very dangerous for young children if accidentally consumed or inhaled.



Poisonous plants

When looking for hazards in the backyard, it's important to check for any poisonous plants. This is especially important if you have young children around who are more likely to touch or ingest indoor and outdoor plants.

Safety tips for backyard plants:

- If moving into a new house, identify any low plants or flower bushes to ensure they are not poisonous.
- If you're unsure what the plant is, take a sample to your local nursery to have it identified.
- If poisonous plants are identified in your backyard, restrict access from young children. Remove smaller plants if possible.
- Refer to Kidsafe WA's Poisonous Plants Fact Sheet for a list of common plants in Western Australia that are considered harmful to children. Fact sheets can be found at www.kidsafewa.com.au.
- Teach young children to never put leaves, stems, seeds, nuts or berries from any plant into their mouths.



TOP TIP: First Aid for Poisoning

- If you think a child may have swallowed something poisonous, or if they have a reaction from touching or eating a plant, take the child with you and call the **Poisons Information Centre: 13 11 26**
- Help is available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day Australia wide. They will give you expert advice and tell you exactly what to do3.

3 St John Ambulance Australia 2022. First Aid for Poisons Fact Sheet. Available from www.stjohnwa.com.au

Water safety

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death for children under five years of age. With Australia's hot climate, it is common to have a pool, spa or other water sources in the backyard to stay cool. As young children are naturally curious and attracted to water, it is important they are under constant active supervision around water.

Keep Watch is a program run by Royal Life Saving Society WA that provides information to parents and carers on preventing drowning in children under five. For more information on water safety visit www.royallifesavingwa.com.au.

Tips for backyard water safety:

- Always actively supervise children around any depth of water and stay within 'arm's reach' of children.
- Restrict access to water where possible. Ensure pool and spa fences are self-closing, self-latching and well maintained.



- Never prop open a pool fence and ensure there are no objects near the fence that could be easily climbed by children.
- Familiarise children with water and enrol them in swimming lessons. Teach children safety rules for the pool at home.
- Designate an adult to be the 'lifeguard' when there are a number of people at family gatherings. Ensure someone is always responsible for supervision.
- Empty paddling and inflatable pools immediately after use.
- Always empty buckets, eskies and pet bowls when not in use. Restrict access from small children when being used.
- Cover garden ponds with strong wire mesh.
- Be prepared for an emergency and learn how to perform CPR. Update this regularly.

Swimming pools and spas:

If you have a swimming pool or inflatable pool that holds more than 30cm of water, you need a barrier that isolates the pool from the house and the rest of the backyard. For further information on what is required, contact your council or local government.

Animal safety

While there can be many benefits to household pets, they can increase the risk of animal-related injuries for children. Animal bites to children are often caused by their own pets or a familiar animal. Non-domesticated animals such as insects, spiders and snakes can also cause bite or sting injuries.

Safety tips for animals in the backyard:

- Always supervise young children around all animals in the backyard.
- Separate children from animals and pets where possible.
- Remember that all dogs can be unpredictable and may bite if they feel threatened, regardless of how calm or trusted they are.
- Teach children how to engage with animals safely, and to not disturb animals when they are eating or sleeping.
- Consider smaller animals in the backyard such as reptiles, spiders and insects. Keep gardens well maintained to remove hiding spots for these animals.
- Learn basic first aid to know how to treat animal bites and stings. Find our what snakes are common in your area and how to treat their bites.
- When choosing a pet, consider your family's lifestyle, level of activity, space and time available.



Bicycles & small-wheeled devices

The backyard is a great place for kids to learn how to ride their bikes and to practice new skills in a safe environment. While children may be away from other hazards such as busy roads and cars, it's important that safety measures are still taken at home to reduce the risk of injury.

Small-wheeled devices can include equipment such as skateboards, roller blades, ripsticks and scooters. Many children are injured while using small-wheeled devices as they can be hard to balance on and can easily cause children to fall.

Safety tips for bicycles and small-wheeled devices:

- Provide a clear flat area for children to use bikes and other devices in the backyard. Ensure the area is free from other objects and walkways.
- Always provide protective gear such as helmets and knee pads. Ensure children wear these at all times, even when they are riding in the backyard.
- Ensure helmets are adjusted and well-fitted. Always choose helmets that meet the Australian Standard.
- Ensure bikes and devices are an appropriate size for children and that they are taught how to ride them safely.
- Regularly check bikes and devices for any broken or damaged parts.
- Never allow children to ride bikes or devices in the driveway or near roads.
- Always keep garage doors and gates closed when children are riding in the backyard.



Backyard safety checklist

There can be a lot to consider when making your backyard a safe play area for children. Use the safety checklist to assess your own backyard. If you tick 'No', consider what changes you can make to reduce the risk of injury in that area. Remember to get down low to view your backyard from a child's perspective.

Play equipment	**Yes**	**No**
Does play equipment meet the Australian Standard AS/NZ 8124.6?	☐	☐
Is all play equipment strong, sturdy and securely anchored to the ground?	☐	☐
Is all play equipment suitable for the age of children using it?	☐	☐
Is all play equipment free from openings that could trap a child?	☐	☐
Is all play equipment under 2.5m tall?	☐	☐
Is all play equipment for young children under 1.8m tall?	☐	☐
Is all play equipment free from sharp edges?	☐	☐
Is all play equipment free from rust and broken parts?	☐	☐
Is all play equipment well shaded and easily supervised?	☐	☐
Is all play equipment positioned away from fences and other heights?	☐	☐
Are ladders and platform steps securely attached to equipment?	☐	☐
Is there impact-absorbing surfacing provided underneath elevated equipment?	☐	☐
Is there impact-absorbing surfacing provided underneath swings and slides?	☐	☐
Are loose-fill materials regularly replenished to maintain correct depth?	☐	☐
Are slides made from plastic or fibreglass and protected from the sun?	☐	☐
Do slides over 1m high have a crossbar provided across the entry point?	☐	☐
Is there a clear area provided at the end of slides?	☐	☐
Are swings positioned away from other play equipment?	☐	☐
Are swing chains small enough to not trap small fingers?	☐	☐
Are swing seats made from a soft and flexible material?	☐	☐
Are attachment points of swings secure?	☐	☐
Are hand grips and ropes securely attached to climbing frames?	☐	☐

Backyard safety checklist

Play equipment	Yes	No
Are guardrails and handrails installed around elevated cubby houses?	☐	☐
Are cubby houses and other wooden items free from CCA treated pine?	☐	☐
Are children provided with helmets and safety gear when riding wheeled devices?	☐	☐
Are bikes and other devices an appropriate size for children using them?	☐	☐

Trampolines	Yes	No
Does your trampoline meet the Australian Standard AS4989?	☐	☐
Does your trampoline have a safety net and soft padding around the frame?	☐	☐
Is your trampoline positioned on impact-absorbing surfacing?	☐	☐
Is there a minimum overhead clearance of 8m above your trampoline?	☐	☐
Are the legs of your trampoline secured into the ground?	☐	☐
Are children taught safety rules for using the trampoline?	☐	☐
Are children supervised while using the trampoline?	☐	☐
Is the area beneath the trampoline free from objects?	☐	☐
Are trampoline springs and frames free from damage and rusted metal?	☐	☐
Is the trampoline mat free from tears or holes?	☐	☐

Natural elements	Yes	No
Are sandpits regularly checked for debris, sticks and other contaminants?	☐	☐
Are rocks and boulders positioned where they cannot be easily moved or tilted?	☐	☐
Are rocks and boulders free from sharp edges?	☐	☐
Are digging patches free from animal faeces, fertilisers and other contaminants?	☐	☐
Is adequate drainage provided around water play features to prevent pooling?	☐	☐
Is the backyard free from poisonous plants?	☐	☐
Are loose play items free from sharp edges and broken parts?	☐	☐
Are garden areas regularly checked for insects and spiders?	☐	☐

Backyard safety checklist

Play areas	Yes	No
Are play areas well shaded by natural shade or shade sails?	☐	☐
Are play areas fenced off from driveways, vehicles, pools and other hazards?	☐	☐
Are play areas in a position where children can be easily supervised?	☐	☐
Are play areas free from rubbish, garden tools and other hazards?	☐	☐
Are fences in good condition without large gaps and sharp edges?	☐	☐
Are chemicals and poisons stored safely in a locked garage or shed?	☐	☐
Are chemicals and poisons kept in their original containers and packaging?	☐	☐
Are all machinery and garden tools locked away when not in use?	☐	☐
Are BBQs stored in a locked garage or shed when not in use?	☐	☐
Are children always supervised around pools, spas and other water sources?	☐	☐
Is your pool or spa securely fenced with a self-closing and self-latching gate?	☐	☐
Are buckets, eskies and pet bowls emptied when not in use?	☐	☐
Are garden ponds covered with strong wire mesh?	☐	☐
Are children supervised around animals and pets?	☐	☐
Are pets kept in a secured area away from small children where possible?	☐	☐

For more information

Kidsafe WESTERN AUSTRALIA
www.kidsafewa.com.au
Telephone: (08) 6244 4880
Email: kidsafe@kidsafewa.com.au

Kidsafe SOUTH AUSTRALIA
www.kidsafesa.com.au
Telephone: (08) 7089 8554
Email: enquiries@kidsafesa.com.au

Kidsafe NEW SOUTH WALES
www.kidsafensw.org
Telephone: (02) 9845 0890
Email: schn-kidsafe@health.nsw.gov.au

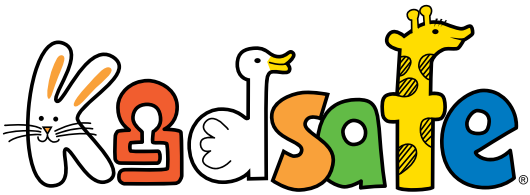
Kidsafe TASMANIA
www.kidsafetas.com.au
Telephone: 0417 381 721
Email: tas@kidsafe.com.au

Kidsafe NORTHERN TERRITORY
www.kidsafent.com.au
Telephone: (08) 8941 8234
Email: nt@kidsafent.com.au

Kidsafe VICTORIA
www.kidsafevic.com.au
Telephone: (03) 9036 2306
Email: info@kidsafevic.com.au

Kidsafe QUEENSLAND
www.kidsafeqld.com.au
Telephone: (07) 3854 1829
Email: qld@kidsafeqld.com.au

Kidsafe ACT
www.kidsafeact.com.au
Telephone: (02) 6290 2244
Email: shop@kidsafeact.com.au



Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia

Western Australia

www.kidsafewa.com.au