


## Child Care Center Letter Series 2009-01

**Date:** May 8, 2009

**To:** All Child Care Center Licensees  
Child Care Licensing Consultants

**From:** James S. Sinnamon, Director   
Child Care Licensing Division

**Subject:** Playground Inspections

When the child care center rules took effect in December 2006, there were several rule requirements that had delayed effective dates. R 400.5117(7), which requires the equipment in the outdoor play area to comply with the guidelines of the Consumer Product Safety Commission's 1997 edition of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety, became effective in December 2008.

Many child care centers are using playground safety inspectors, certified by either the National Recreation and Parks Association or the National Program for Playground Safety to comply with this rule. Unfortunately, there is not a standard inspection format used by playground inspectors for their reports. The department's technical assistance and guidance on this rule has been confusing for some playground inspectors. As a result, we are finding a great deal of inconsistency in the enforcement of this rule.

To better assure centers are receiving playground inspections that are consistent with the language in the child care center rules, the Child Care Licensing Division will be:

- Meeting with certified playground safety inspectors who wish to continue inspecting playground equipment at child care centers. These inspectors will be included on an approved list of certified playground safety inspectors being developed by the Child Care Licensing Division.
- Creating an official Playground Inspection Summary Report that will be completed by playground inspectors as part of their full report. This form will be available online in the near future.

Until the list of approved playground safety inspectors is completed, please refrain from contracting for a playground inspection. I anticipate the list of approved playground inspectors will be finalized and posted online before June 30, 2009. The Playground Inspection Summary Report form will also be available by that time. Please check our website, [www.michigan.gov/michildcare](http://www.michigan.gov/michildcare), for the list of approved inspectors and the new form. The 1997 edition of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety is only available electronically at our Web site under Resources/Child Health and Safety. Once the information is online, centers needing playground inspections must contact one of the playground inspectors on our list.

If you have questions about your playground, please contact your licensing consultant.