Title: PLAYGROUND SAFETY

Purpose: To provide safety to all children using Kobacker playground equipment

Responsibility: Registered Nurse (RN), Mental Health Technician (MHT), & other Kobacker trained personnel.

Equipment: Playground

Procedure

1. Assess safety needs of patient on admission and prior to using playground equipment including visual problems, history of seizures, problems with balance, paralysis of any limbs, confusion, impulsivity, ability to follow directions, hearing deficit, or status of gross motor skills due to impairment of chronological age.

   Use nursing admission assessment to obtain history and daily observation of patient on unit. Bring EpiPen for patients with allergies to bees.

2. Communicate any problems noted in assessment to other staff members.

   Document on communication board, pass on in shift-to-shift report, note on Kardex, document in medical record.

3. Communicate rules to patient and family regarding playground safety. These include:
   a. Patient to staff ratio 4:1
   b. Children must be in sight at all times
   c. Equipment must be dry
   d. Children cannot run up the slide
   e. Children cannot climb on top of equipment or wall
   f. No throwing wood chips or sand
   g. No jumping off swing while in motion
   h. Children must be made aware of boundaries
   i. No more than two children on the tire swing at a time

   Use combination of visual display, written rules, and visual cues.

4. Observe all children while using playground equipment and continually reinforce rules.

   Each time a child breaks a rule, staff will use judgment in providing logical consequences for the child's behavior. Complete head count of patients before returning to unit.

5. Document the following:
   a. Initial assessment
   b. Patient teaching
   c. Patient response to teaching
   d. Evaluation: i.e., ability to follow safety rules
   e. Complete occurrence report

   Use of cell phones when staff members are separated in case of accident, injury or runaway.
Reviewed by: Tammy Cerrone, BSN, RN, Nursing Director Kobacker & Tausha Sharples, LPCC-S.

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References: