

Fresh student jobs.

summer
jobs
program

canada.com

NEWSPAPERS

TELEVISION

CITIES

CHANNELS

CLASSIFIEDS

RADIO

SEARCHWORD:

go

Search the Web

go



YellowPages.ca Canada 4 1 1

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

SEARCH

SEARCH

- » [Super Search](#)
- » [People Finder](#)
- » [Business Finder](#)
- » [French Search](#)
- » [OnLine Shopping](#)
- » [Careers](#)
- » [Autos](#)

STORY

Study suggests regulation playground equipment keeps kids safe

Erin Henderson

Canadian Press

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

TORONTO (CP) - The risk of injury to children was reduced after playgrounds were retrofitted by the Toronto District School Board, a new study suggests.

The research, published in Monday's edition of the Canadian Medical Association Journal, shows fewer school children suffered injuries after the school board replaced dangerous equipment with safer products in the school yard.

Researchers from York University and Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children studied 86 elementary school playgrounds before and after the changes and discovered child injury on playgrounds was cut by about 30 per cent.

"About 550 injuries were avoided in the post-intervention period," said Dr. Alison Macpherson, the senior author of the study and an assistant professor at York University's School of Kinesiology and Health Science.

The TDSB replaced playgrounds at the 86 facilities in 2001 to meet Canadian Standards Association guidelines. It included work to jungle gyms, but also the school yard itself, such as creating more green space.

Macpherson said the schools were allowed to pick their own equipment (monkey bars, swings, slides etc.) as long as it met CSA criteria. The only uniform change was lowering equipment height and softening the surface of the playground.

1 | 2 | NEXT >>

ADVERTISEMENT

Students.

Have
something
in your
pockets
besides lint.

summer
jobs
program

Check daily
to see latest
postings.

"Kids fall off equipment onto hard sand or concrete and they get head injuries and that can be really, really serious," said Macpherson, adding concussions can lead to difficulties with reading and memory.

Researchers compared schools that had equipment replaced to meet CSA standards and schools where playgrounds were considered acceptable and left untouched. Through insurance records, the team studied the injury rate at both sets of schools before and after the replacement.

"We found that the rate of injury in intervention schools decreased by about 30 per cent and in non-intervention schools, the school where the playground equipment was just left there, the rate of injury increased by about 40 per cent," said Macpherson, adding the researchers could not absolutely identify why the rate of injury went up at non-intervention schools, suggesting it could be the result of a multitude of reasons including aging equipment and weather.

The study found injury in the intervention schools decreased from 2.61 injuries per 1,000 students per month before the old equipment was removed, to 1.68 per 1,000 students per month after safer measures were taken.

Conversely, the injury rate at non-intervention schools went up from 1.44 per 1,000 students per month to 1.81 per 1,000 per month.

Macpherson said the study compared reported injuries from the school years 1998-99 and 1999-2000, and then in 2002-03, a year after the retrofitting.

"Our conclusion was removing and replacing unsafe equipment is an effective strategy for preventing playground injuries," said Macpherson.

[More...](#)

1 | 2 | [NEXT >>](#)

 [Print Story](#)

 [Send to a Friend](#)

[Search canada.com](#) | [About Us](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Terms](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Our Partners](#)

Copyright © 2005 CanWest Interactive Inc. All rights reserved.
CanWest Interactive Inc. is an affiliate of [CanWest Global Communications Corp.](#)
[Copyright & Permission Rules](#)

canada.com