

Basic Playground Equipment Recommendations

(These recommendations are based on feedback from schools.)

General playground balls
Jump ropes, long and short
Footballs
Soccer balls
Basketballs
Hula Hoops
Safety cones

Store your equipment in a safe location, preferably on an equipment cart or in bins that can be easily transported, where it won't be borrowed by staff from other programs in the building. Label the equipment to ensure that it will be returned if lost or misplaced. Quantity needed each year will depend on your school population and how well equipment is maintained.

Release equipment onto the playground in waves so that you can maintain a consistent inventory throughout the school year.

Is your equipment wearing out, getting lost, or stolen with limited funds for new items? Consider these ideas:

- Make playground equipment a priority and add the purchase price of equipment as a line item on your school's budget every year.
- Check in with your PTA/PTO and ask them to support your quest for having a high quality recess by helping you purchase equipment.
- Consider hosting an equipment drive sometime during the school year. Ask families or businesses for new or gently used equipment. Be specific about your equipment needs though. What kind of equipment do you want? If you are asking for gently used what are the requirements for people to donate, i.e. must it be able to be inflated, does it have to be in working condition, can it have scuffs on it?
- Finally, make sure to thank your donors with a student hand-written card or by posting something on your school's website, or on a bulletin board in a prominent area of the school.