

Why Risk It?

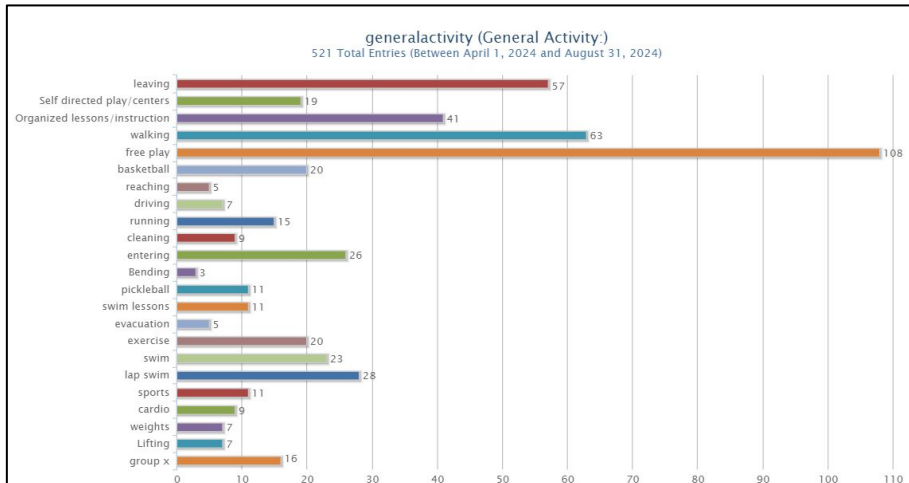
RISK REDUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS & REVIEWS

The Y in Central Maryland



October 2024

Spotlight: Keeping Youth Safe During Play



Did you know that most of the incidents reported across the Y over the past 5 months occurred during periods of **unstructured, free play**?

Whether you work in youth sports, early childhood, after school enrichment, camp, or Stay & Play - kids love to be in your programs. They get to interact with their peers, try new things and have fun.

As a Y associate, it is your job to make sure that **all youth in your programs are safe**. While it may seem like injuries are bound to happen during play, there are specific strategies you can use during playtime to help prevent injuries:

Set Clear Expectations - Set clear expectations on what behaviors are allowed, and which are unacceptable. Place particular emphasis on common or likely causes of injury, and be specific—for example, aggressive tackling or throwing of objects. Helping kids understand the 'why' behind the rules helps set them up for success.

Implement Active Supervision - This means you know what all youth are doing, and if they're okay, at all times. The most effective way to do this is to **be actively involved in activities**, rather than passively observing from the sidelines. Listen, look, and engage consistently to ensure that all participants are safe and accounted for.

Prevent Bullying - Bullying situations can sometimes escalate to physical altercations like pushing, tripping or punching. Look for dynamics between kids, power imbalances and their reactions between each other. If you identify a bullying situation, **intervene immediately and separate the children** involved; then report the bullying to leadership.

Keeping kids safe and having fun in your programs is what you do every single day. Let's continue to make sure that playtime is safe, and that injuries don't happen among youth.

Open this [link](#) to learn more about keeping kids safe during playtime.

(information courtesy of The Redwoods Group)

Hepatitis B Election

Hepatitis B is a serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the liver. The virus, which is called the hepatitis B virus (HBV), can cause mild illness lasting a few weeks or lifelong infection, including liver cancer, liver failure, and death. It is spread when blood or other body fluids (saliva, vomit, feces, etc.) from a person infected with the hepatitis B virus enters the body of someone who is not infected.

As a Y associate, you may be in a position where you could come into contact with blood, vomit, saliva, or other infectious bodily fluids. If so, it is reasonable to anticipate a chance for exposure.

The Y offers the Hepatitis B vaccination, at no cost, to all associates should you desire to get it, regardless of exposure to infectious materials.

To accept the Hepatitis B vaccination at this time, please complete the Hepatitis B form in Dayforce now.

1. Log into Dayforce (managers need to use their Associate role)
2. Click the three lines to the top left
3. Go to Profile and select Forms
4. Click on the Hepatitis B Vaccination Request Form and follow the instructions

In the event of any future exposure to infectious materials, you will be offered the Hepatitis B vaccine again.

If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact HR@ymaryland.org.

Risk Reminders

Questions about mitigating risk? Email riskmanagement@ymaryland.org.