

Richland County



Enriching Lives &
Connecting Communities

Summer Playground Program

Programming Department:
Policy No. 6020

Revision Date: June 16, 2014

Policy Statement

The Richland County Recreation Commission understands the need for summer activities for all of our youth and is committed to offering a quality free Summer Playground Program in selected areas of the County. Youth ages of 5-13, are invited to enjoy games, crafts, special guests and much more during this eight week program. In addition, when available, a 'free lunch' through USDA is offered to attendees.

THE SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM:

Well-trained and caring staff work to ensure that all campers have a safe, clean, and positive environment in which participants can socialize with friends, enjoy indoor and outdoor games, explore their creativity with arts, crafts, dance, and music, and have a wonderful and memorable experience. Playground Programs can be combined with our Summer Afternoon Program for a full day of fun.

DAY CAMP HOURS AND DAYS:

Playground Program Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Summer Afternoon Program Hours: 12:00 noon – 6:00 p.m. Some sites may allow early arrival at 7:30 a.m. However, when offered, those attending 'early arrival programs' would be expected to pay the appropriate fees for those programs. Playground Program Dates: This is an eight week program offered Monday through Friday beginning around the first week of June. Some sites may offer extended weeks. The Playground Program is not held on holidays such as Memorial Day or Independence Day. Cost: This Playground Program is offered for free at selected sites around Richland County and when available by USDA or other programs, provides a "free lunch" to attendees.

PARTICIPATION & REGISTRATION:

Those interested in attending can register at the site they wish to attend by completing the necessary forms and paying the registration fee. For the safety of each child, the registration form must be fully completed, signed and on file before any child can attend the Program. This includes; name and phone numbers of those to contact should an emergency arise, additional persons authorized to pick up your child, insurance information, driver's license numbers and all needed signatures. Registration continues as long as space is available. Eighty (80) campers per facility is the cap, unless authorized by the Executive Director.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Playground and Summer Afternoon Programs are DSS and ABC accredited and accepts ABC vouchers as payment. Parents are encouraged to call the South Carolina Department of Social Services for requirements.

PLAYGROUND PROGRAM LOCATIONS:

The Summer Playground program is offered at various RCRC facilities.

STAFFING:

The Programming Department Staff is responsible for hiring the part-time Playground and Summer Afternoon Program Staff who are placed in various program roles: Site Directors and Assistant Directors, Program Counselors, Special Needs Counselors, Drivers, Office Assistants and Program Assistants.

THE STAFF:

Trained, caring counselors 'closely supervise' the children each day and encourage good character and confidence while enhancing social skills through participation in fun, educational, and interactive activities. Each staff member has undergone hours of training in preparation for the summer as well as numerous background checks - personal references, former employment, national background checks to include the sex offenders registry - as well as completing Drug, TB testing and Physicals. Teachers, school staff, college students and returning counselors make up the majority of employees, to help ensure trained experienced staff.

STAFF TRAINING:

All Staff must attend mandatory training sessions which include: First Aid, Blood Borne Pathogens, AED and CPR Certifications, Staff Policies and Procedures and Corporal Punishment. All Child Care Staff are required to receive 15 hours of annual certified training through the South Carolina Center for Child Care Career Development. 15 Hours: A minimum of 5 hours of Child Growth and Development, A minimum of 5 hours of Curriculum Activities for Children, A minimum of 5 hours in other Early Childhood Areas. Recommended areas include: Safety, Health, Nutrition, Guidance and Professional Development.

Directors/Operators are required to receive 20 hours of annual certified training through the SC-CCCCD. A minimum of 5 hours related to Program Administration, a minimum of 5 hours of Child Growth & Development, Early Childhood Education, and/or Health, 10 hours in other Early Childhood Areas. Recommended areas include: Guidance, Curriculum Activities, Nutrition, and Professional Development.

PLAYGROUND PROGRAMS ARE INCLUSIVE:

The Playground Programs Staff will make every effort to accommodate children of all abilities. If children have special needs, their parents should contact the Programming Department so that any necessary arrangements can be made to insure the child has a fun, quality experience at camp.

ADOPTED BY RICHLAND COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION BOARD

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 16, 2014
(Date Approved)

APPROVED: J. Marie Green
J. Marie Green, Chair

For more information about this policy, contact the Executive Department.