

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION PLAYGROUND PROGRAMS

1. Where are the Playground Programs located?

There are two Playground Programs located at the following elementary schools:

Hillcrest	420 East Holland Road, Holland
Richboro	125 Upper Holland Road, Richboro

2. When can I bring my child to the playground site?

For your child's safety, we ask that parents **do not drop their children off until 8:55 AM**. Staff is not scheduled to arrive until 8:45 AM and there is often some setting up that needs to be done before the children arrive.

3. Is it necessary to walk my child into Playground, or may I drop him/her off at the entrance?

On the first day of Playground, you may wish to park your car, walk your child in and introduce yourself to the Playground Leader at your child's site, however it is not necessary. It may however relieve some anxiety for your child (and you!), especially if this is your first year participating in our programs. Each site has it's own, slightly different drop off and pick up procedure. Please find your child's site below and familiarize yourself with this procedure:

Hillcrest: Children are dropped off and dismissed at the gym doors in the front of the building. Parents may stay in the car, but while doing so; maintain the line in the order in which you arrive. The line will be in a circular pattern. Traffic will enter the front parking lot staying to the right and following around to the gym door. During dismissal, if you choose to park the car, you must come and get your child. No child will be permitted to enter the parking area alone.

Richboro: Children are dropped off at the main entrance to the school. A leader or a counselor will be standing at the drop off point to see that the children enter the building. Children are dismissed at the gym door in the front of the school. Parents may stay in the car, but while doing so must maintain the line in the order in which they arrive. The line will be a circular pattern. Traffic will enter the front parking lot staying to the right and following around to the main entrance. If you choose to park in the parking area, you must come and get your child. No child will be permitted to go to the parking area alone.

4. My home is very close to the playground site; will my child be permitted to walk home without my supervision?

Yes. However, the Playground Leader must be aware of this arrangement in writing prior to the start of the day's activities.

5. If I am unable to pick my child up, can a counselor drive him/her home?

Northampton Township Park and Recreation employees will not be permitted to transport your child to or from Playground under any circumstances unless the employee is related to the child.

6. What if someone else is picking up my child?

If your child is going home with a friend, or someone other than you is picking up your child on a given day, please send a note in with your child indicating who will be picking him/her up. Please be aware that your child WILL NOT be released to anyone who is not authorized to pick him/her up unless prior written notification is given by the parent.

7. How will I know what my child is doing during Playground hours?

There are two ways in which the Playground staff communicates with parents. A monthly activity calendar is distributed which highlights special events and trip days. A weekly newsletter is also published on Fridays to let you know how your child is spending his/her days and what special events or trips are occurring in the week to come. The Playground Leader or any of the Playground Counselors are also more than happy to answer any questions you may have during the course of the summer.

8. How should my child dress for the Playground Program?

With the exception of special theme days and the talent show (special instructions will be given during Playground for those special days), your child should wear comfortable play clothes (shorts and a t-shirt). **Sneakers MUST be worn at all times.**

9. How are the children divided into groups?

The children are divided into groups according to the grade they are entering and their age. The Playground Staff also asks for input from the children to assure that they are happy with their groups and are with their friends. If your child is unhappy, arrangements can be made to change groups as long as there is not a significant age difference.

10. What should I send with my child each day? *

The following is a list of items your child will/may need to bring.

- A snack
- Lunch (for swimming participants only)
- Water bottle
- **Money to purchase snacks or extra money for trips

*please make sure your child's name is on all personal belongings

**these items are only necessary on certain days or by parent's choice

11. Are snacks available for purchase?

Yes. Snacks are available for purchase everyday. The cost of these snacks is \$.50. The snacks consist of pretzels, chips, cookies and crackers. Candy is not available on a daily basis and we ask that you do not send candy to Playground. *Special days will be noted on the calendar or in the newsletter when candy is permitted or will be sold.*

12. How often are trips scheduled?

Each age group at each playground program is scheduled to take six trips. **Your child must be registered online for trips by June 13th for your child to be eligible to attend.** This is due to reservation requirements and bussing - **no exceptions will be made.**

13. What do we do on a trip day?

If your child is scheduled to go on the trip, a set departure time will have been announced. Your child must arrive at the Playground site by that time or they will miss the bus. The bus will not wait for your child. For his/her safety, your child is given a Camp T-shirt that is to be worn, without exception, on all trips. If your child comes to Playground on a day he/she is registered for a trip without a Camp T-shirt, we will have a limited number of extra shirts available; however, a \$10.00 fee will be assessed for the cost of the shirt.

14. What if my child is not registered for the trip?

If your child is not registered for a trip, he/she should NOT report to camp that day UNLESS the trip is divided by grades. (Example: This year the children who are entering grades 1, 2 and 3 will be going to Build a Bear Workshop. Children entering grades 4, 5 and 6 should still report to camp, as it is a "normal" camp day for them.)

15. May my child bring a guest to Playground?

Of course! We welcome your child's friend/relative to the Playground Program. If your child wishes to bring a guest, they must obtain a guest request slip from the Playground Leader. They should obtain this form at least 24 hours before they wish to bring their visitor, as the form must be completely filled out in order for their guest to be permitted to stay. The daily guest fee is \$10.00.

16. Is my child's guest permitted to go on the trips?

No, guests are not permitted on trips under any circumstances.

17. What if I need to contact my child during Playground?

The following is a list of the school phone numbers in case there is a need to contact your child during Playground hours. We ask that you limit your phone calls to emergencies only.

Hillcrest: 215-968-7030

Richboro: 215-953-9500

If you are unable to contact your child or a member of the Playground Staff, you may call the Camp Director at 215-357-5396 Ext. 12. The Camp Director or another member of the Parks and Recreation Staff will do whatever possible to see that your child receives your message.

18. How will my child be disciplined during Playground?

Parks and Recreation has adopted a "three strikes and you're out" policy.

19. What behavior constitutes a strike for my child?

On the first day of Playground, rules will be clearly explained to your child. Any violation of the rules agreed upon constitutes a strike. Prior to the first strike, your child will receive a warning. If he/she misbehaves again, a time out will be given. If the child continues to behave inappropriately, he/she receives the first strike. Discussion with the parents may be necessary at this time. If a child gets three strikes during the seven weeks he/she is in Playground, he/she may be asked to stay at home for an amount of time to be determined by the Camp Director, the Playground Leader and the child's parents. Your child's counselors and the Playground Leader will determine when a child should be given a strike.

20. What if my child gets sick at Playground?

Just as when your child is at school, if your child is not feeling well we will take his/her temperature. If your child has a fever, we will contact you to come and get him/her. If the Playground staff is unable to reach either parent, we will attempt to notify the person listed under EMERGENCY CONTACT. In the rare event that our staff is unable to reach anyone, a counselor will stay with your child until you can be reached. If your child does not have a temperature, we will allow them to rest quietly for a while and see how they feel.

21. What training does the Playground Staff have?

Each staff member goes through an orientation in which they familiarize themselves with our rules, regulations and emergency procedures. In addition, the Playground Leader and at least one other staff member are certified in CPR and First Aid Training and hold an American Red Cross certification card.

22. What if my family is planning a vacation during one of the weeks Playground is in session?

It is requested that you notify either the Camp Director or the Playground Leader as to the week your child(ren) will be missing. This will help us to schedule our activities. Also, it is recommended that you pick up the newsletter from the Playground Leader that was distributed the week your child was not at Playground. This way, you are aware of any announcements your child missed and what is coming up the week your child returns.

23. Will I receive credit or a refund if I decide to withdraw my child or for the days or weeks missed once Playground begins?

If, prior to the start of Playground, your situation changes and you decide to withdraw your child from the program, your payment will be refunded or credited to you minus a minimal processing fee as long as we have another camper to take your child's place. Once Playground has started however, a refund or credit is not given for days missed or vacations taken.

If you have any further questions after reading this material, please feel free to call the Camp Director at 357-5396 Ext. 12.

We are looking forward to spending the summer with your child!