

Loose clothing can get snagged; [Final Edition]

TORONTO STAR

September 11, 1995 pg C.4

See related story on same page.

Playground safety tips for parents:

- * Supervise children - especially pre-schoolers and children between the ages of 5 and 9 - the age group that is most frequently injured on playgrounds.
- * Make sure children are dressed appropriately. Loose strings, hoods and scarves have caught on slides and other play equipment, causing strangulation.
- * Ensure that the equipment is appropriate for children's ages, weight and skills.
- * Make sure the surface underneath slides and swing is safe. The most recommended surfaces are 58 centimetres to 78 centimetres of dry, non- compacted hardwood chips, wood mulch, pea gravel or sand. Grass and hard-packed dirt don't protect the head or other body parts from falls and mishaps.
- * Platforms for slides and climbing equipment should not be higher than 1.8 metres for pre-schoolers and 2.1 metres for older children.
- * Make sure no piece of playground equipment can trap a child's head or neck.
- * To prevent abrasions and burns, check that seating and sliding surfaces are smooth on slides.
- * Check all playground equipment for splinters, missing handrails, weak attachments, vandalism or decay.