

## **Aurora First Assembly**

### **Managing Inflatable Equipment Use**

1. **BE PRESENT:** Stay at your assigned post with whistle in hand and do not leave for any reason. If you need assistance ask one of the workers or children to get what you need so you do not have to leave your post. Position yourself to be able to see children coming and going through your part of the obstacle course.
  
2. **BE PROACTIVE:** The best way to safely manage activities is to carefully watch children and anticipate possible problems. Most accidents result from an interaction of accumulating factors that lead to an accident or injury. The most common accumulating factors that lead to problems on inflatable equipment are:
  1. Too many children actively using the equipment
  2. Inattention of the safety supervisor
  3. Distraction of children and supervision
  4. Rough play and carelessness of children
  5. Stalled movement or “bottlenecking” through the equipment
  6. Children bouncing off the inflatable onto the ground, being hit by other children or just falling awkwardly.
  
3. **BE STRATEGIC:** The best strategy for a safety supervisor to employ is called the “SEE strategy”. SEE helps you identify present conditions and implement a plan of action. Each letter stands for an important component.
  - S = See (search for factors that might lead to trouble)
  - E = Evaluate (how the factors might interact to create risk or vulnerability)
  - E = Execute (take action to maintain a margin of safety)
  
4. **BE AWARE:** It is important to supervise with a periodic awareness of the following items.
  - **Proper inflation rate and blower:** Are you ready in the event of unintended deflation? Does the inflatable show signs that a blower might be off or running improperly? Is the rubber stretched and tight or billowing and saggy? Is the blower valves kinked, fitted tightly over the blower holes and unabridged? Are the non-return valves and all flaps properly zipped?
  - **Accessibility to fire extinguisher:** Is an ABC fire extinguisher within easy reach of the inflatable? Do you know where the nearest fire exit is?
  - **Landing surface:** Is the landing surface covered by adequate landing material and void of harmful equipment or sharp corners?
  - **Emergency Exit Procedures:** If the inflatable is deflated accidentally (i.e. power outage) have all children exit orderly through the side, door or emergency roof/ceiling release. You will have time to get everyone out safely! After all children are safely out and away from the inflatables, then fix the problem.

5. **BE FIRM:** It is important that you blow your whistle and take appropriate action at the first sign of misbehavior or violation of posted rules immediately upon recognizing a problem. If the situation turns out to be harmless, you have lost nothing and the children can continue to play. The following rules are not optional and must be enforced without exception.
- **Size and Age of Users:** Children of similar size and age must occupy the equipment.
  - **Maximum Number of Users:** Each piece of the large obstacle course has its own maximum number of users. Be sure to accommodate these standards.
  - **Rough Play:** Do not allow body contact, rolls, flips, drop kicks, head first sliding or side wall climbing by users while within the inflatable. Most of the injuries are caused by children bouncing off the inflatable onto the ground, being hit by other children or just falling awkwardly. Many of these accidents could be avoided by effective adult supervision.
  - **Harmful Objects:** Children must take off shoes and turn in all hard, sharp or harmful objects from their pockets or on their person. This would include things like jewelry, toys, cell phones, electronic games, healed shoes, pens, pencils, watches, barrettes, and similar items.
  - **Flow of Traffic:** Keep traffic moving forward. With exception of the bounce house, children should not be allowed to linger or rest once they have entered any part of the obstacle course. Those exiting should do so quickly and not loiter.
  - **Food:** Keep all chewing gum, food, drinks, candy and snacks away from the inflatables.
  - **Whistle Alert:** When a whistle is blown, children should immediately stop and make eye contact with the supervisor to see if they must exit the equipment.
  - **Minimum Distance:** Maintain a minimum of four (4) feet of clearance around the inflatable.

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### **Inflatable Equipment Supervision Questions**

1. It is permissible to leave your supervision post as long as you are within visual range. (yes or no)
2. When working your supervision post, it is more important to be positioned in a way that you can see children exiting through the obstacle. (yes or no)
3. The best way to safely manage activities is to anticipate possible problems. (yes or no)
4. Circle which of the following is NOT one of the most common accumulating factors leading to problems.
  - a) too many children actively using the equipment
  - b) inattention of the safety supervisor
  - c) adults falling on children
  - d) distraction of children and supervision
  - e) rough play and carelessness of children
  - f) stalled movement or “bottlenecking” through the equipment
  - g) Children bouncing off the inflatable onto the ground, being hit by other children or just falling awkwardly.
  - h) Children getting sucked in to air leaks
5. What does each letter of the SEE strategy stand for?
  - a) S \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) E \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) E \_\_\_\_\_
6. Children of similar size and age should occupy the equipment. (yes or no)
7. It is up to the discretion of the safety supervisor to determine how many children can play on each piece of the equipment. (yes or no)
8. Circle the following types of play that is NOT proper and permitted while in or on the inflatable.
  - a) Soft body contact
  - b) Running
  - c) Crawling
  - d) Rolls
  - e) Flips
  - f) Climbing the ladder on the slide
  - g) drop kicks
  - h) head first sliding
  - i) side wall climbing

9. Children must take off shoes and turn in all hard, sharp or harmful objects from their pockets or on their person. (yes or no)
10. It is ok for children to stop and rest or talk once they enter the obstacle course. (yes or no)
11. Chewing gum, food, drinks, candy and snacks are allowed on the inflatables. (yes or no)
12. The whistle means that all the children should immediately stop and make eye contact with the supervisor to see if they must exit the equipment. (yes or no)
13. If the inflatable is deflated accidentally, all children should exit orderly through the side, door or emergency roof/ceiling release. (yes or no)
14. The rubber on the inflatable should not be tight and billowing, but show slight signs of sagging as evidence of proper inflation. (yes or no)
15. The landing surface should be covered by adequate landing material and void of harmful equipment or sharp corners. (yes or no)

**Answer Key**

1) n, 2) n, 3) y, 4) c, h, 5) see, evaluation, execute, 6) y, 7) n, 8) a, d, e, g, h, I, 9) y, 10) n, 11) n, 12) y, 13) y, 14) n, 15, y