



# Rhode Island Department of Human Services

## Outdoor Play Plan

Updated 9/15/2025

*All Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes must have access to outdoor space. If a facility does not have on-site access to usable outdoor space, a plan for outdoor play at an alternative location must be submitted and approved by the Department. To be considered for an outdoor plan, this form must be submitted with your application.*

Child Care Center Information	
Center Name:	Date:
Address:	
Outdoor Play Location	
Name of Playground/Park:	
Address:	
Outdoor Play Plan	
<b>Please describe the plan for outdoor play using the areas listed below. In explaining the plan, consider the ages of the children in your program, the time of day the outdoor space will be used, the surrounding area of the alternative location, etc.</b>	
<b>Traffic Patterns of Vehicles and People:</b> *Consider the type of traffic (passenger vehicles, buses, large trucks), the typical amount of traffic, and if there is a clear path for pediatricians.	
Ages of Children Enrolled:	
<b>Availability of age-appropriate equipment:</b> *Consider the equipment available at the alternative location and if it is suitable for the children in your program.	



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**Usage of the location by Others:** \*Consider what other groups may be using the location at the same time your group of children would be using it. For example, public playgrounds can be used by all whereas some school playgrounds are not accessible to the public when school is in session.

**Neighborhood Circumstances:** \*Consider the neighborhood surrounding the location, including the hazards, risks, and crime rate for the area.

**Accessibility to the Location:** \*Consider how children and caregivers can access the location by foot, and/or the availability of push carts or other means of transporting infants and toddlers.

**Accessibility of Restrooms:** \*Consider if the location has a public restroom. If not, is there a public restroom nearby?

**Ability to obtain Medical Assistance (if needed):** \*Consider the proximity of any police, ambulance, or fire stations.

**Communication with Parents/Guardians:** \*Please describe how parents/guardians will be able to contact the center if the provider is off-site.



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### Acknowledgment

By signing this form, I understand that I am requesting the use of an alternative outdoor space that will need approval of the Department prior to use. I understand that the submission of this form does not automatically approve the use of the alternative location and I also understand that the alternative location is not approved until the Department emails me a formal approval.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Print Name

Position/Title

This form can be returned via email to your assigned licenser or the general Child Care Licensing email:

[DHS.ChildCareLicensing@dhs.ri.gov](mailto:DHS.ChildCareLicensing@dhs.ri.gov)