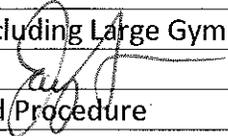


 <b>VERMONT</b>		<h1>505</h1>
<b>DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES</b> Family Services Division Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center		
Chapter:	Safety and Security	
Subject:	Recreation Areas Including Large Gymnasium	Page 1 of 2
Approved:	Jay Simons, Director 	Effective: 4/11/2018
Supersedes	Woodside Policy and Procedure	Dated: 11/2001

## Purpose

To outline procedures to ensure safety and security for residents in recreation areas, including the large gymnasium.

## Policy and Procedure

### *Staff Ratios*

The large and the small recreation yards and the gym are considered internal to the building; therefore, the 1:5 staff to resident ratio is applicable. However, a smaller ratio may be required depending upon the composition of the group or other special needs or circumstances. It is critical to staff the recreation yards with experienced, able-bodied employees who are able to minimize the risk of escape and to handle any dangerous situations that might arise.

### *First Inspection of Recreation Yard*

Shortly before using either recreation yard, a careful inspection of the fence and grounds must be conducted to ensure that no contraband has been passed into the yard and to make sure that the fences and locks are intact.

### *Head Counts*

A head count must be performed before leaving the unit and again when in the recreation yard or gym.

### *Second Inspection of Recreation Yard*

Following the head count, staff will perform a second inspection/search of the grounds and fences in the presence of the residents. This second search is done for two reasons:

1. Something could be passed into the yard immediately before recreation.
2. It is a strong visible reminder to residents that these checks are performed by staff and therefore a deterrent to planning an escape.



*Location of Staff*

Throughout the entire physical education/recreation period, staff members must be deployed so that they can readily observe the entire yard and all residents at all times.

A radio must be immediately available at all times to maintain communication with the front desk and others in the building.

Throughout the activity, the first priority of staff is to maintain close supervision of the group in order to minimize dangerous behaviors and to increase appropriate behaviors. If there are indications that the group as a whole, or an individual, is getting out of control, the group, or the individual, must be immediately escorted back to the building. The staff member doing so will radio back to the building to advise the front desk and others that he/she is returning with the resident(s).