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Dear Play at the Park:

Thank you for your efforts to create safe places for children and dogs in Toronto. Doggone Safe is dedicated to dog bite prevention through education and supports the creation of dog parks which are properly managed and supervised so as to minimize the risk of children encountering loose dogs.

Dogs should not be permitted to run in school yards, playing fields or public parks where children may play. The creation of enclosed and secure dog parks will give dog owners a suitable place where they can enjoy off-leash time with their dogs.

In order to protect the safety of children at dog parks, consideration should be given to a minimum age for children allowed in the park and an age range for unsupervised children in the dog park. Since a major reason for creating dog parks is to separate children from loose dogs, it would seem counterproductive to create concentrations of loose dogs within a dog park and then allow children to play there as well. Doggone Safe recommends that children under 10 not be allowed in the dog park and children 11-15 should required adult supervision.

Sincerely,

Joan Orr M.Sc.
President, Doggone Safe