



# Inflatable Bounce House

Recreational activities are pillars of summer/winter camp, summer school, and recreational center experiences. They provide an opportunity for socialization and learning in a fun setting. These activities also provide an increased liability and potential for staff and/or participant injury. The safety of participants and staff should be standard operating procedure. It should be completed to the highest professional standards and in line with federal, state, local, and accrediting agency guidelines. The following checklist template provides a high level oversight to assist with your activity structure. Your organization is responsible for the development of your own written program guidelines and policies for the oversight of your activities. Through consistent management and preventative programs, exposures can be reduced to help ensure a safe recreational experience.

## Prior to Set-Up:

- Ensure that the inflatable has a valid certificate of inspection and safety rules and instructions that specify how the unit should be installed and operated.
- Read all installation instructions.
- Check for rips or tears and ensure that straps, anchor points, ropes and slides are in good condition.
- Select a flat, even surface free of all rocks, sticks or objects sticking up from the ground.
- Never place near power lines, tree branches, fences, heat and open flames, or bodies of water. If using a hard surface, place soft surface around the entrance/exit.
- Ensure electrical source is safe prior to use.
- Prohibit use in high winds 10 – 15 mph (when winds raise dust or loose paper, or small branches start to move and wind that causes tops of trees to start swaying or flags fully extended).
- Prohibit use in any inclement weather.
- Do not use when temperatures are greater than 90° Fahrenheit.

## Set up Exterior and Interior:

### EXTERIOR

- Leave at least a three-foot clearance around the outside of the inflatable.
- Inflatable must be securely anchored at all anchor points to firm ground (not sand or loose dirt) with long metal stakes at least 18", that have been driven all the way into the ground at a 45-degree angle.
- Follow specific instructions for inflating according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Ensure that the entrance/exits are large enough for emergency egress, netted windows for ventilation and for providing a viewing area for supervision of children.
- Ensure the blower plug is properly secured and cannot be inadvertently disconnected from the power source.

## INTERIOR

All the above. Place away from walls, keep an open space around all sides and make sure the ceiling is several feet above the top of the inflatable.

**\*CAUTION:** Children with any of (but not limited to) the following conditions should NOT use the inflatable:

- Neck Injuries
- Back Injuries
- Joint Injuries
- Heart Problems
- Asthma
- Bronchitis
- Circulatory Problems
- Other Health Concerns such as brittle bone disease, brain injuries, etc.

### Use Guidelines for Children:

- Strict age guidelines should be enforced as recommended for the inflatable.
- Parents should refer to conditions that would prohibit use.\*
- All shoes, glasses, jewelry should be removed as well as empty pockets. No food or utensils.
- No pushing, roughhousing, tumbling/somersaults, wrestling, flips, or general horseplay and stay away from the entrance, exit, sides and walls. No jumping/climbing from walls.
- Must bounce on feet.

### Supervision During Use:

- A properly trained adult must always be present to supervise children while the inflatable is in use. Never leave children unattended at any time.
- Read rules & recommendations printed on inflatable.
- Make sure to abide by the rider capacity, not just weight capacity.
- Only allow small groups of similar size children (less than four or per manufacturer's instructions).
- Keep children away from entrance/exit/close door.
- If using slide, do not slide head first, allow one child at a time and make sure slide is clear before using.
- Make sure the plug is not pulled out when kids are in the house. Keep children away from the inflatable blower. If blower malfunctions, stop use immediately.
- If inflatable begins to lose air or if wind speed increases (signs are listed in Prior to Set-up), children should carefully exit the bouncer.

## **Additional Resources:**

[U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#)

[NFPA National Fire Protection Association](#)

[CIPA Child Injury Prevention Alliance](#)

[Inflatable Safety Regulation Agencies by State](#)

[Inflatable Safety Institute - Training and Certification](#)

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and safety needs, contact  
Nationwide Loss Control  
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