

SAFETY AND INJURY PREVENTION



NATIONAL CENTER ON
Early Childhood Health and Wellness

Tips for Health Managers from the National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness

What Is Safety and Injury Prevention?

Safety and injury prevention for young children includes:

- Creating safe environments for children based on their development and skills
- Training staff to use active supervision to keep children safe
- Educating parents and staff on how to recognize risks, predict what a child might do, and redirect children
- Teaching children how to make safe choices
- Using injury and incident data to reduce injuries and promote safety

Why Is It Important?

Injury prevention works.

- Children like to explore! Safety equipment, such as gates and locks, prevents children from exploring dangerous areas.
- Safety does not come naturally to children. They need adults to role-model and explain safe behaviors to help them learn.



10 things you should know

Overall

- 1 — It is everyone's job to create a safe environment.
- 2 — You can use injury and incident data to find, fix and prevent problems.

In a center or family child care home

- 3 — Staff should use safety checks as part of their daily routines to find, remove or repair any hazards.
- 4 — Active supervision helps to ensure that staff observe, monitor, and anticipate children's behavior to keep children safe.

Outside

- 5 — Program managers should teach staff and parents how to identify safety risks outside.
- 6 — Staff members should teach children and parents pedestrian safety so they know how to stay safe near streets and intersections.

On the go

- 7 — Developing systems for scanning and counting children often and consistently helps to guarantee that no child is left on a bus.
- 8 — Including bus monitors and bus drivers in transportation planning helps keep children safe on buses.

At home

- 9 — Home visitors and family service workers can use home safety checks to partner with parents to make homes safe.
- 10 — Programs should use community partners to provide families with resources and information to keep their homes safe.

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Key Resources for Head Start Managers

National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. (2011). Caring for Our Children, 3rd edition. Retrieved from: <http://cfoc.nrckids.org/>

[Tips for Keeping Children Safe: A Developmental Guide](#)

[Keep Children Safe Using Active Supervision](#)



This document was prepared under Grant #90HC0005 for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, by the National Center on Health.