



# Safe kids

## Child Proof Your Home

1,800 Children per Year Fatally Injured at Home

### Safe Kids urges parents to childproof homes

**New London** — Each year in the United States, more than 1,800 children ages 4 and under die from accidental injuries in the home, and more than 3 million children ages 14 and under are treated in emergency rooms for accidental injuries occurring at home.

Safe Kids urges parents and caregivers to check their homes at least once a year for basic safety precautions. “Make it your New Year’s resolution,” says Esther Pendola, Coordinator of Safe Kids New London County. “It’s easy to eliminate the most obvious hazards — and you don’t need a lot of expensive equipment.”

The first step in childproofing a home is to explore every room at a child’s eye level. “Literally get down on your hands and knees and crawl around. You’ll be surprised at how much you can reach and how many small objects you can pick up,” says Pendola. “Anything that can fit through a toilet paper tube is a potential choking hazard. Of course, cleaning products, alcohol, firearms, matches, lighters and other potentially harmful products need to be stored out of reach and locked up.”

### Safe Kids also recommends

**Set your water heater no higher than 120 degrees F.** At higher temperatures, it only takes three seconds to burn a child’s skin severely enough to require surgery.

**Test your smoke alarms every month.** Make sure you have working smoke alarms in every sleeping area.

**Install carbon monoxide detectors in every sleeping area and near fuel-burning appliances.**

**Put safety gates at the top and bottom of every stairway.** Gates installed with hardware are safer than pressure gates.

**Cover unused electrical outlets.** You can buy plastic outlet covers or just use duct tape.

**Keep firearms unloaded and locked out of reach.** And lock up ammunition in a separate place.



### Child Safety Seat Inspections

Tuesdays & Thursdays – 4-7 PM, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital,  
1<sup>st</sup> level of the Parking Garage

Wednesdays 10-1 PM Mohegan Tribe  
Eagle View Garage, Sandy Desert Road, Uncasville

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month  
Norwich Fire Department, 10 North Thames Street

*Please note:  
All Car Seat Checks are by  
Appointment ONLY!!!!*

*Please bring your car seat,  
directions to the car seat,  
and the owner’s manual for  
your vehicle.*

**Call: (860) 442-0733**

For more recall  
information please  
visit...  
[www.recalls.gov](http://www.recalls.gov)

**PLEASE NOTE this list is not Exhaustive**

**Cosco Tourvia/Regal Ride Due to Possible Injury**

**Model:** Convertible child restraints, models 22100TTD, 22100FSN, 22100TIP, 22111FSM, and 22130WAL, and Cosco Regal Ride 22139 MON, manufactured from September 28, 2004, through September 20, 2007 MODELS 22100FSM AND 22111FSM WERE Also sold as two packs with model 93100FSM and 93111FSM.



**Remedy:**  
Dorel will notify registered owners and provide a free repair kit. Owners can contact can contact Dorel at 1-888-698-6681, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 8AM TO 4:30PM EST OR VISIT THEIR WEBSITE AT [WWW.DJGUSA.COM](http://WWW.DJGUSA.COM).

**Super Magnet Toys Recalled by MTC Due to Aspiration and Intestinal Hazards**

**Sold at:** Dollar and gift stores nationwide from September 2005 through November 2007 for about \$1.

**Remedy:** Consumers should take the recalled toy away from children immediately and return them to the store where purchased for a full refund.

**Consumer Contact:** MTC at (800) 388-7228 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday. Consumers can also e-mail the firm at [mtcmans@aol.com](mailto:mtcmans@aol.com)



**Stuffer Bear Recalled Due to Choking Hazard; Sold Exclusively at Victoria's Secret Internet site**

**Sold by:** Victoria's Secret Web site ([www.victoriasecret.com](http://www.victoriasecret.com)) during October 2007 for about \$8.

**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately stop using the stuffer bears and keep out of the reach of young children.

**Consumer Contact:** Victoria's Secret toll-free at (877) 260-8419 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET or visit Web site [www.victoriasecret.com](http://www.victoriasecret.com)



**Discount School Supply Recalls Measuring Chart Due to Violation of Lead Paint Standard**

**Sold by:** Discount School Supply catalogs and the company's Web site from August 2000 through August 2007 for about \$10.

**Remedy:** Consumers should stop using the chart immediately and contact Discount School Supply to receive a credit or refund.

**Consumer Contact:** Discount School Supply at (800) 919-5242 between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday; visit the firm's Web site at [www.discountchoolsupply.com](http://www.discountchoolsupply.com)

**Teething Rings Recalled by Empire Silver Due to Choking Hazard**

**Sold at:** Independent jewelry, gift, specialty and department stores nationwide during November 2007 for between \$50 and \$120.

**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately take the teething rings from infants and return them to the store where purchased for a full refund or replacement.

**Consumer Contact:** Empire Silver Company at (800) 255-9475 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the company's Web site at [www.empiresilver.com](http://www.empiresilver.com)



**Playskool Voluntarily Recalls Toy Tool Benches after the Death of Two Toddlers**

**Sold at:** Toys R Us, Wal-Mart, Target, KB Toys stores and various other stores nationwide from October 2005 through September 2006 for about \$35.

**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately take the two toy nails away from children and contact Playskool to get information on returning the nails for a \$50 certificate for a Playskool (or its related companies') product.

**For additional information,** call Playskool at (800) 509-9554 anytime, or go to their Web site at [www.playskool.com](http://www.playskool.com)



**Tot Tower Blocks Recalled by eeBoo Corp.; Children's Toy Can Pose Choking Hazard**

**Sold at:** Specialty and gift shops nationwide from January 2003 through September 2007 for about \$20.

**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately take the recalled toy away from children, and return it to the place of purchase for a full refund, or contact eeBoo Corp. directly to receive a replacement toy.

**Consumer Contact:** eeBoo Corp. at (800) 791-5619 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at [www.eeboocorp.com](http://www.eeboocorp.com)



# Winter Sports Safety



More than a quarter million children each year are injured while participating in winter sports in the United States. Safe Kids offers a few simple precautions: **kids need to be dressed appropriately, take lessons, be actively supervised and stick to safe terrain. For many winter activities, protective headgear is also recommended.**

“Kids should wear helmets when they ski,” says Kelly Murphy, Assistant Coordinator of Safe Kids New London County. “Buy or rent a ski helmet that’s certified by the Snell Memorial Foundation or ASTM International, and have an expert make sure it fits correctly so it won’t come loose at a critical moment.” According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, ski helmets could prevent or reduce the effects of 53 percent of the head injuries suffered by children under 15 while skiing or snowboarding.

“Caregivers should wear ski helmets too — remember, your children learn safety habits by watching you,” says Murphy.

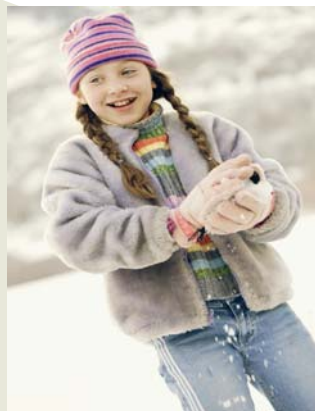
Roughly 3,000 kids a year suffer serious head injuries (brain injuries) from sledding. “Kids under 12 should wear a helmet while sledding,” says Murphy, citing a position statement by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. “Don’t go down a hill headfirst — sit up and face forward. Make sure there’s adult supervision and a clear, safe path.” A good sledding hill does not lead to a street, a body of water or a crowded gathering place. In addition, the CPSC reminds parents and kids to inspect sleds regularly for worn, damaged or loose parts that could break or snag at high speed.

“Children under 6 should not be riding a snowmobile, period, and nobody under 16 should be driving one,” says Kelly Murphy. “All snowmobile drivers and passengers should be wearing helmets designed for high-speed motor sports — a bike helmet isn’t sufficient for a four-wheeled motorcycle that can go up to 90 miles per hour.”

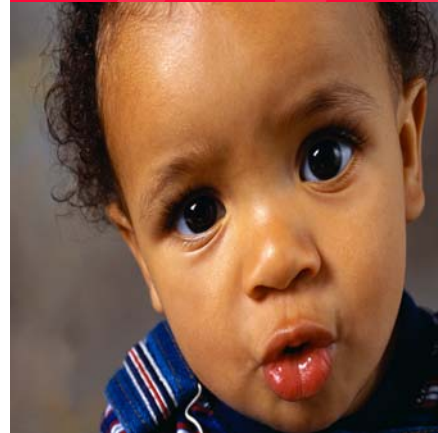
There is no consensus among experts about the need for helmets while ice skating, but parents should keep in mind that beginners are likely to fall down a lot. Helmets are a must for ice hockey, along with mouth guards, knee pads and elbow, shoulder and shin protection. “Skate only on ice that’s approved for skating by the local recreation department or park authority,” says Murphy. **“Teach kids how to protect themselves if they do fall through the ice: stretch their arms out wide and kick as if swimming, shout for help and try to crawl backward onto solid ice.”**

“Basic health and comfort precautions can go a long way in preventing injury,” says Kelly Murphy. “Dress in layers. Wear sunscreen. Stay hydrated. Kids — or caregivers — who become distracted or irritable, or begin to hyperventilate, may be suffering from hypothermia or altitude sickness, or they may be too tired to participate safely in winter sports. They need to go indoors, rest and warm up.”

In 2004, more than 56,000 children ages 5 to 14 were taken to emergency rooms for injuries resulting from winter sports, including approximately 21,000 from snowboarding, 12,000 from sledding, 11,000 from skiing, 11,000 from ice skating and 1,500 from snowmobile accidents.



## CPSC Issues Warning on Infants using Air Mattresses



The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recently issued a warning advising parents to not place infants on air mattresses. The CPSC warns that air mattresses are too soft for sleeping infants. Parents and caregivers are strongly advised to never place infants to sleep on air mattresses or other soft surfaces (such as water beds and adult beds), which are not specifically designed or safe for infant use.

Since 2002, the CPSC has received reports of 16 tragic deaths, mostly infants younger than 8 months of age who were placed to sleep on air mattresses. Eleven suffocated in a face down position on an air mattress and five died due to suffocation after falling into gaps between the mattress and bed frame and mattress and adjacent furniture or wall.