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# Safe kids

## Drowning is a Leading Cause of Death for Children

Safe Kids New London County Offers Pool and Spa Safety Tips



**Drowning is the number two cause of accidental death for children ages 14 and under.** Every year, about 280 toddlers drown in residential swimming pools overall, approximately 760 children ages 14 and under die from accidental drowning, and an estimated 3,000 go to the emergency room after near-drowning incidents.

“Kids drown quickly and quietly,” said Esther Schuman, coordinator of Safe Kids. “A drowning child cannot cry or shout for help. If a child is missing, always check the pool first — there’s no time to spare.”

Even a near-drowning incident can have lifelong consequences. Kids who survive near-drowning may have brain damage; after four to six minutes under water, the damage is usually irreversible.

“The most important precaution is active supervision. Simply being near your child is not necessarily supervising,” said Schuman. Although 94 percent of parents say they supervise their children while swimming, many acknowledge that they engage in other distracting activities at the same time — for example, talking, eating, reading or taking care of another child.

When there are children in or near the water, adults should take turns serving as the designated “Water Watcher,” paying undivided attention. (Visit [www.usa.safekids.org/water](http://www.usa.safekids.org/water) to download a free Water Watcher badge.)

Safe Kids recommends these precautions:

- If you have a pool or spa, or if your child visits a home that has a pool or spa, it should be surrounded on all four sides by a fence at least five feet high with gates that close and latch automatically.
- A pool or spa with a single drain should be equipped with an anti-entrapment drain cover and a safety vacuum release system to prevent children from being caught in the suction of the drain. The powerful suction forces can trap a child underwater or cause internal injuries.
- Don’t leave toys in or near the pool, where they could attract unsupervised kids. For extra protection, consider a pool alarm and alarms on the doors, windows and gates leading to the pool.
- Enroll your kids in swimming lessons around age 4, but don’t assume swimming lessons make your child “drownproof.”
- Remember: inflatable swimming aids such as “water wings” are not flotation devices and do not prevent drowning.
- Learn infant and child CPR
- Keep rescue equipment, a phone and emergency numbers by the pool.

These guidelines apply to inflatable and portable pools, not just in-ground pools. A child can drown in just an inch of water. Kiddie pools should be emptied and stored out of reach when not in use.



## Child Safety Seat Inspections

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 4/3- L&M 4-7 PM         | 4/4- Mohegan 12-3 PM    |
| 4/5- L&M 4-7 PM         | 4/6- Norwich FD 10-1 PM |
| 4/10-L&M 4-7 PM         | 4/11- Mohegan 10-1PM    |
| 4/12- L&M 4-7 PM        | 4/17-L&M 4-7 PM         |
| 4/18-Mohegan 12-3 PM    | 4/19-L&M 4-7 PM         |
| 4/20-Norwich FD 10-1 PM | 4/24-L&M 4-7 PM         |
| 4/25-Mohegan 10-1 PM    | 4/26-L&M 4-7 PM         |

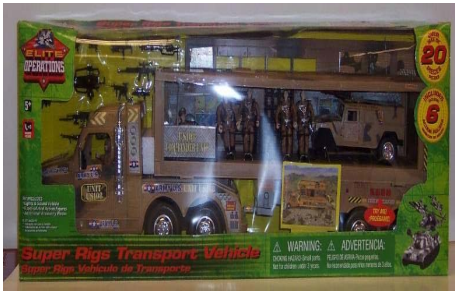
**Please note:  
 All Car Seat Checks are  
 by Appointment ONLY!!!!**

**Please bring your car  
 seat, directions to the car  
 seat, and the owner’s  
 manual for your vehicle.  
 Call: (860) 442-0733**

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

### Toys "R" Us Recalls "Elite Operations" Toy Sets

**Name of Product:** "Elite Operations" Toy  
**Manufacturer:** Toy Century Industrial Company Ltd., of Hong Kong  
**Hazard:** These toys contain high levels of lead in the paint, which is toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health effects. Also, the toys have sharp points, posing a laceration hazard.  
**Description:** Super Rigs Transport Vehicle (#087286), Command Patrol Center (#920625), Troop Carrier (#773967). Toy sets sold prior to January 2006 are not included in this recall.  
**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately take the toys away from children and return to nearest Toys "R" Us store for full credit.  
**Consumer Contact:** Toys "R" Us at (800) 869-7787 between 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. ET., M-S or visit the firm's Web site at [www.toysrus.com](http://www.toysrus.com).



### Tri-Star International Recalls Children's Stationery Sets

**Name of Product:** Children's Stationery Sets  
**Hazard:** The children's stationery set contains a razor blade cutter with a sharp edge, posing a laceration hazard to young children.  
**Description:** The recall involves Cooky Stationery Sets, which include a pencil, various color markers, plastic scissors, erasers and the razor blade cutter. The cardboard backing of the set reads, "Cooky Stationery (sic) Set." "Cooky Stationery" is written on the erasers and markers.  
**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately take the razor blade cutter away from children and dispose of it. Consumers can return the set to the store for a refund.  
**Consumer Contact:** CPSC's Hotline at (800) 638-2772 anytime.



### Infantino Recalls Infant Sling Carriers Due to Fall Hazard

**Name of product:** SlingRider Infant Carriers  
**Hazard:** The plastic slider on the fabric strap can break. This can cause the strap supporting the carrier to release and infants to fall out of the carrier.  
**Description:** This recall involves the Infantino SlingRider™ carriers with item numbers: 141-210; 151-210; 151-528; and 151-534. The carriers are sold in black or khaki. "Infantino" is printed on the plastic slider located on the strap.  
**Remedy:** Consumers should stop using these carriers immediately and contact Infantino to return them and receive a free replacement product.  
**Consumer Contact:** Infantino toll-free at (888) 808-3111 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. PT Monday through Friday or go to the firm's Web site at <http://service.infantino.com>



### Hanna Andersson Recalls Children's Loungewear

**Name of Product:** Hanna Andersson Children's Crossover Tee and Lounge Pant Sets and Cropped Johns  
**Hazard:** The recalled garments fail to meet the children's sleepwear flammability standards. The Crossover Tee and Lounge Pant sets are marketed as loungewear. The Cropped Johns were not marketed as loungewear, but could be used as loungewear.  
**Description:** Crossover Tee and Lounge Pant set and Cropped Johns have the name "Hanna Andersson" on the sewn-in label. Both sets were sold in girls' sizes 80cm through 160cm.  
**Remedy:** Stop using the recalled garments immediately, and return them to Hanna Andersson for a full refund.  
**Consumer Contact:** Hanna Andersson at (800) 222-0544 between 5 a.m. – 9 p.m., PT, any day or go to [www.hannaandersson.com](http://www.hannaandersson.com).

### H & M Recalls Boy's Jackets Due to Choking, Poisoning Hazards

**Name of Product:** Boy's jackets with an attached compass  
**Hazard:** The attached compass on these jackets can break, posing a choking hazard for young children. Additionally, the liquid mineral oil, inside the compass can be harmful if swallowed.  
**Description:** Boy's cotton canvas jacket made for children in sizes 18M to size 6Y, style # 93196. The attached compasses are copper or turquoise colored, about 2.75-inches long, and have a clip to attach to the jacket.  
**Remedy:** Immediately remove the compass and throw it away, or mail the compass to H & M to receive a store discount coupon.  
**Consumer Contact:** H & M Stores at (877) 439-6261 between 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., ET, M-F, or go to [www.hm.com](http://www.hm.com).

### Casio Inc. Announces Recall of Electronic Keyboards

**Name of Product:** Electronic Musical Keyboards  
**Hazard:** The recalled keyboards can overheat when in use, posing a fire hazard to consumers.  
**Description:** Model # CTK-710 of the Casio 61-key full-size electronic musical keyboards. The size of the keyboard is 37-11/16-inches by 14-1/16-inches by 5-1/4 inches. Serial numbers range from 7030001-7040400, and 7041901-7043500.  
**Remedy:** Consumers should stop using the keyboard immediately, unplug it and remove the batteries. Consumers should contact Casio for a free repair.  
**Consumer Contact:** Casio at (866) 800-4302 between 9 a.m. – 8 p.m., ET, seven days a week, or visit the firm's Web site at [www.casio.com](http://www.casio.com).



## April 23-27 is Playground Safety Week

Safe Kids recommends playgrounds with soft surfaces

Each year, in the United States, more than 200,000 children are treated in emergency rooms for injuries involving playground equipment and approximately 10 die. Falls account for 80 percent of playground injuries; however, most playground fatalities are caused by strangulation and occur in a family's yard, not on public property.

National Playground Safety Week is April 23-27, and Safe Kids joins the National Program for Playground Safety urging parents and caregivers to help make sure children have safe places to play.

"Nothing can take the place of active supervision, but we do need to make sure our kids are playing in safe environments in the first place," says Kelly Murphy, Safe Kids Assistant coordinator. "Playground equipment should be labeled with a minimum age, and it should be surrounded by a protective surface."

Grass and soil are *not* good playground surfaces. "The ground should be covered 12 inches deep with shredded rubber, hardwood fiber mulch or fine sand, extending at least six feet in all directions around the equipment," says Murphy. "It won't prevent falls, but it can prevent injuries or reduce their severity."

Even nonfatal injuries from playground falls can be very serious. "A child who falls 10 feet is at risk of spinal cord injury, paralysis and death, and a child who falls about 5 feet is four times as likely to be injured as a child who falls from a lower height," says Kelly Murphy.

Parents and caregivers need to keep kids in sight and in reach on the playground. "Simply being in the same place as your child isn't necessarily supervising," says Murphy. "Kids on a playground need your undivided attention."

Safe Kids also reminds parents and caregivers to:

Make sure playground equipment is inspected frequently and kept in good repair.

Remove hood and neck drawstrings from children's clothing and outerwear and do not allow kids to wear helmets, necklaces, purses or scarves on the playground.

Don't allow your kids to engage in, or play near, any pushing, shoving or crowding around playground equipment.

Keep toddlers under age 5 in a separate play area, fenced off from equipment designed for bigger kids.

When your mom is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair.

Morgan, age 11

## Air Travel Safety Tips

Flying to Disney World for your spring vacation? Spring has arrived, and summer is just around the corner, both times of the year when airline travel for families increases.

During your flight, the safest place for your little one is in an approved child restraint system, not on your lap. The Federal Aviation Administration strongly urges parents and guardians to secure children in an appropriate restraint based on weight, height and size. Keeping a child in a child restraint system during your flight will help to eliminate the potential hazards often associated with turbulence or other emergency situations while in flight.

As in cars, babies under a year old and 20 pounds are best restrained in a rear-facing car seat, and most forward-facing car seats can protect toddlers up to 40 pounds or more. Make sure your child's car seat is labeled "certified for use in motor vehicles and aircraft." Also, don't forget to measure the width of your particular car seat. It should fit in most airplane seats if it is no wider than 16 inches.

Children who have outgrown car seats should sit directly on the airplane seat, and like all passengers, keep the lap belt buckled across their thighs or hips, not their stomach. Booster seats are not allowed on airplanes, because they require shoulder belts and airplane seats have only lap belts.

Just a reminder: Car seats are not allowed to be secured in aisle seats or exit rows, where they could block emergency escape routes; they must be installed at a window seat. Most airlines offer a discount for children under 2.