

# Safe*kids*

April 19-25<sup>th</sup>

## Playground Safety Week

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 19-25, 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."

.....Continued on page 2



**The Mohegan Tribe/Safe Kids Car Seat Inspection Station will no longer offer car seat checks to the public. Appointments will still be available at L&M and Norwich Fire Department. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and hope to be able to accommodate all families at the other locations.**

**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**

## PAW-SI-TIVE-LY ADOPTABLE!



Please Join Us!  
**Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> Noon-3pm**  
Groton Public Library  
Rte 117, Town of Groton

### This event is FREE to the Public

Town of Groton Animal Control Office presents a unique learning event for children of all ages. Children will be able to "adopt" a stuffed animal and learn all aspects of responsible pet care through imaginative play. Animal Control Officers from several area towns will be on hand for the fun filled event!!

Questions??? Call 441-6709

Pg 1, continued.

### 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.



### 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.

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

Morgan, age 11

## March Recalls 2009

While all recalls are important, we urge you to pay close attention to the recall in **red** or marked with a \* since a child's death was associated with the product.

[03/04/09 RECARO Signo Child Restraint Systems Recalled Due to Harness System Defect \(CSS\)](#)

[03/05/09 Wall-Mounted Radiators Recalled by Rettig Belgium Due to Crush Hazard; Child's Death Reported \(M\)\\*](#)

[03/11/09 Infantino Recalls Infant Toys Due to Choking Hazard](#)

[03/11/09 Ice Skates Recalled by Pronto Sports Due to Violation of Lead Paint Standard](#)

[03/11/09 Electra Bicycle Company Recalls Bicycles with Front Trays: Trays Can Come Loose and Pose Fall Hazard to Riders](#)

[03/12/09 Kidde Recalls to Replace Fire Extinguishers Due to Failure to Operate](#)

[03/12/09 Seattle Cotton Works Hooded Sweatshirts with Drawstrings Recalled Due to Strangulation Hazard](#)

[03/17/09 Cannondale Recalls Road Bicycles Due to Fall Hazard](#)

[03/17/09 State Farm® Recalls Good Neigh Bears® Due to Choking Hazard](#)

[03/18/09 Human Touch Recalls Perfect Chair to Fix Screw Drive Due to Entanglement Hazard](#)

[03/24/09 Aviva Sports Recalls Trampolines Due to Fall Hazard](#)

[03/24/09 Fisher-Price Recalls 3-in-1 High Chairs Due to Fall Hazard](#)

[03/24/09 Pacifiers Recalled by OKK Trading Due to Choking Hazard](#)

[03/25/09 Children's Hooded Fleece Jackets with Drawstrings Recalled by Golden Grove Trading Due to Strangulation Hazard](#)

[03/25/09 La Jolla Sport Recalls Children's Hooded Sweatshirts with Drawstrings Due to Strangulation Hazard](#)

[03/25/09 Children's Hooded Sweatshirts with Drawstrings Recalled by Dysfunctional Clothing Due to Strangulation Hazard](#)

[03/25/09 Children's Hooded Sweatshirts Recalled by MM Compound Due to Strangulation Hazard](#)



## Parenting Your First Child Series

*A program for expectant and first time parents that provides you with parenting information and support. Donations & employer match contributions are accepted.*

*Call Mary Samara to register @ (860) 442-0711 x 3047*

Classes are held in the **LDRP Resource Room**

### Dental Health for Babies

**Tuesday, April 7, 2009 12:30-1:30 pm**

Information on how to start a lifetime of healthy tooth care presented by Susan Goldstein, Hygienist with Children's Dental Associates.

### See How They Move

**Tuesday, May 5, 2009 12:30-1:30 pm**

Your baby's motor skill development in the first year is the topic of this class. Observe babies in playgroup as Elyse Landesberg, P.T. presents information on motor development.

### Starting Solid Foods

**Thursday, May 21, 2009 12:30-1:30 pm**

What to expect as you introduce your baby to their first solid foods.

### Car Seat Safety

**Tuesday, June 9, 2009 12:30-1:30 pm**

New London County SAFE KIDS provides you with information and updates on car seat safety. For information On scheduling an appointment to have your car seat checked, call SAFE KIDS at 442-0733.

### Crying, Comforting, Colic

**Friday, June 19, 2009 7:00-8:00 pm**

Responding to the needs of your newborn and ways to soothe your baby.

### ENROLL IN GROUPS

Call x3047

### Infant Massage Classes

For parents & their infants ages 6 weeks old up to crawling age.

### Baby & You Playgroups

For parents & child up to their first birthday.

### Toddler & You Playgroup

For parent and child (1 and 2 years old).