

# Safe *kids*

## Join Safe Kids in Celebrating National Safe Boating Week May 16-22

### Life jackets and active supervision are essential to boating safety

Whether it's during vacation or part of an ordinary day, boating can be fun for the entire family – as long as everyone remains safe. In 2005, 21 children ages 12 and under were killed in boating incidents. Of the children who drowned while boating in 2003, more than 60 percent were not wearing life jackets even though the U.S. Coast Guard reports an estimated 85 percent of boating-related drownings could be prevented by the use of life jackets.

“On a boat, everyone should wear a life jacket at all times,” says Kelly Murphy Safe Kids Assistant coordinator. “Look for a life jacket approved by the U.S. Coast Guard. ‘Water wings’ and other inflatable swimming aids such as inner tubes do not prevent drowning.”

Safe Kids recommends that children ages 14 and under wear life jackets not only on boats, but near open bodies of water or when participating in water sports. Connecticut law requires children ages 12 and under to wear life jackets while boating,

and children under 13 are required to wear life jackets on any recreational vessel in waters under Coast Guard jurisdiction.

Safe Kids urges parents and caregivers to wear life jackets on boats or other watercraft as well. “Your children will pick up and embrace your safety habits,” says Murphy. According to a 2005 study by Safe Kids Worldwide, children are much more likely to practice safe habits when they witness similar behavior by parents and caregivers.

### Safe Kids also reminds parents and caregivers:

Always wear life jackets when in or around open bodies of water and on boats. Make sure the life jacket fits snugly. Have the child make a “touchdown” signal — if the life jacket hits the child’s chin or ears, the life jacket may be too big or the straps are too loose.

Enroll your kids in swimming lessons taught by a certified instructor, but don’t assume swimming lessons or life jackets make your child “drownproof.”

These precautions are important, but they’re no substitute for constant and active adult supervision.

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**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**

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### Safe Kids also reminds parents and caregivers to:

Don't let kids operate or ride on personal watercraft (such as jet skis).

Never drink alcoholic beverages while boating — a large portion of boating accidents that occur each year involve alcohol consumption by both boat operators and passengers

When there are several adults present and children are swimming, use the Water Watcher card strategy, which designates an adult as the Water Watcher for a designated amount of time (e.g. 15-minute periods) to prevent lapses in supervision. To download a Water Watcher card, visit <http://www.usa.safekids.org/water/documents/WaterWatcher-English.pdf>.

Install a carbon monoxide detector on your motorboat to alert you to dangerous levels of exhaust fumes.



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

Morgan, age 11

## Safe Kids Reminds Parents that Hot Weather and Vehicles can be a Deadly Combination for Kids Overheating Deaths Are Preventable with A Few Important Tips

A few minutes might not seem like a long time, but there are circumstances when it can mean the difference between life and death. As temperatures begin to heat up, children are at a serious risk for heat stroke when left alone even for a few minutes in a closed vehicle. Last year, at least 42 children across the United States died from heatstroke caused by being left or trapped in a vehicle.

“A child is our most precious cargo and drivers must know that these deaths and injuries are entirely preventable,” said [Coalition coordinator] coordinator of Safe Kids [Coalition]. “Our hearts go out to every family that has lost a child in this way. No one ever thinks it would happen to them, and that is why it’s essential to get this message out, especially as the weather starts heating up.”

Heat is much more dangerous to children than it is to adults. When left in a hot vehicle, a young child’s core body temperature may increase three to five times faster than that of an adult. This could cause permanent injury or even death. Heat stroke occurs when the core body temperature reaches 104 degrees Fahrenheit. A core body temperature of 107 degrees Fahrenheit is considered lethal.

“The inside of a vehicle can rise 19 degrees above the outside temperature in just 10 minutes,” said [Coalition coordinator]. “After an hour, the temperature inside and outside of a vehicle can differ by 45 degrees or more – even if the window is left open a crack.”

According to research conducted by San Francisco State University, even with relatively cool temperatures outside—70 degrees—the inside of a car can reach a dangerous temperature in just minutes.

The research also revealed that more than half of these children were accidentally left behind in a closed, parked car by parents or caregivers while nearly a third of these children were trapped while playing in a vehicle unattended. Sadly, one in five children who died were intentionally left in the vehicle by an adult.

Safe Kids suggests these tips for parents and caregivers:

- Teach children not to play in, on or around vehicles.
- Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle, even with the window slightly open.
- Always lock a vehicle’s doors and trunk – especially at home. Keep keys and remote entry devices out of children’s reach.
- Place something that you’ll need at your next stop – such as a purse, a lunch, gym bag or briefcase – on the floor of the backseat where the child is sitting. This simple act could help prevent you from accidentally forgetting a child.

## 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 (4.520)

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).