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Safe kids

Safe Kids monthly E-Newsletter contains information on new recalls, safety announcements, and events to help ensure your little ones safety all year long! Please call or email with your comments, or suggestions. Go to www.nlcsafekids.org today!!

Safety Experts Recommend Using Car Seats on Airplanes

Safe Kids New London County Offers Air Travel Safety Tips; Parents Also Cautioned About Hotel Cribs

New London— Infants and toddlers on airplanes are safest in an approved car seat with a harness, in case of turbulence. “A child who rides in a car seat on the ground should ride in that car seat on a plane,” said Esther Pendola, Safe Kid coordinator. “Air turbulence can be dangerous and can appear suddenly without warning.”

Most car seats can fit on standard airplane seats. Safe Kids and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) strongly recommend using a car seat. As in cars, babies under a year old and 20 pounds are best restrained in a rear-facing car seat, and a forward-facing car seat can protect toddlers up to 40 pounds or more depending on your harness limits. Make sure your child’s car seat is labeled “certified for use in motor vehicles and aircraft.”

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. Booster seats cannot be used on airplanes, because they require shoulder belts and airplane seats have only lap belts.

The FAA advises travelers with small children to reserve a pair of seats by a

window. Car seats are not allowed in middle or aisle seats or exit rows, where they could block emergency escape routes; they must be installed at a window seat.

Also, said Esther Pendola, “Children who ride in car seats on the ground appear to be more comfortable and better behaved when using one on a plane.”

At Your Destination: Be Wary of Hotel Cribs

Safe Kids also cautions travelers to take a close look at cribs provided by hotels. In several random surveys from 2001-2006, Safe Kids Worldwide found many hotel-issued cribs to be defective, damaged or even recalled from the market.

“If you can bring your own folding playpen, that’s better than relying on borrowed cribs,” said Esther Pendola. “If you must use a hotel’s crib, inspect it carefully for broken or missing parts and look up the model on www.Recalls.gov to make sure it isn’t subject to any safety notices.”

Child Safety Seat Inspections

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

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

1st and 3rd 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



Knowledge of Home Safety is Important for Everyone

Safe Kids offers safety tips for parents hiring sitters

- Show your babysitter where to find the phones, first aid supplies and flashlights. Post emergency numbers by every phone (don't forget poison control, 800-222-1222), along with your cell phone number and itinerary.
- Go over your fire escape plan and backup plan. Make sure the sitter knows what to do if the smoke alarm or CO detector goes off (get everyone out, meet at a predetermined spot and don't let anyone go back in).
- Tell your sitter what areas or activities are off limits. If your children will be playing in or near a pool or playground equipment, taking a bath, cooking or doing anything else that requires active supervision, discuss your expectations; make sure the sitter understands that active supervision means keeping the child in sight and in reach at all times under undivided attention.
- Instruct your sitter never to leave your child alone — even for a second. There is no substitute for constant supervision.
- Review and discuss safety guidelines about childproofing, swimming, fire, falls and playground equipment. Make sure your babysitter knows what to do in an emergency.

Parents who have taken safety precautions around the home need to make sure their babysitters are familiar with these measures



Playground accidents are one of the leading causes of injury to children in elementary school. Each year, in the United States, more than 200,000 children receive emergency department care for injuries that occurred on playground equipment. Approximately 3 out of 4 playground accidents occur on public playgrounds, including school facilities, as opposed to backyard play equipment.

The leading cause of deaths related to playgrounds and playground equipment is strangulation. Approximately, 15 children per year die from playground-related injuries such as strangulation when a piece of loose clothing or jewelry gets caught on equipment or the child's head gets stuck between climbing bars.

Falls are the leading cause of playground-related injuries. Almost half of all playground-related injuries are severe including fractures, internal injuries, concussions, dislocations, and amputations." A child who falls 10 feet is at risk of spinal cord injury, paralysis and death," says Kelly Murphy, Safe Kids Assistant Coordinator. "Protective surface materials can make a life-and-death difference."

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issues guidelines for playground surfacing and age-appropriate warning labels on playground equipment. In 15 states, some or all of the guidelines in the CPSC's *Handbook for Public Playground Safety* are mandatory under state law.

Playground Safety A Necessity As Children Head Back to School

"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 Murphy. "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."

Even with proper surfacing, teachers and playground monitors need to keep kids in sight and in reach on the playground. "Simply being in the same place as the children isn't necessarily supervising," says Kelly Murphy. "Kids on a playground need an adult's undivided attention."

For outdoor play, children's clothing and outerwear should be free of drawstrings and should fit snugly to minimize the risk of getting stuck in a piece of equipment. Do not allow kids to wear helmets, necklaces, purses or scarves on the playground or engage in any pushing, shoving or crowding around playground equipment.

The CPSC handbook is available at <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSC/PUBS/325.pdf>. "Before your child goes back to school, you might want to take a look at the school playground and, if necessary, discuss the CPSC guidelines with school authorities," says Kelly Murphy.



Recalls

If you own a recalled product listed below, Safe Kids strongly encourages you to follow the guidance contained in the recall notice.

July 2008

[07/02/08 - Hayes Bicycle Group Recalls Quick-Release Devices for Bicycles Due To Fall Hazard](#)

[07/03/08 - Fireworks Over America Recalls Fireworks Due to Shock Hazard](#)

[**07/03/08 - Bayside Furnishings Recalls Youth Bed Toy Chests Sold at Costco After the Death of a 22-Month-Old Child**](#)

[07/03/08 - Children's Jewelry Recalled by Bead Bazaar USA Due to Risk of Lead Exposure](#)

[07/03/08 - Black Cat® Fireworks Recalls Fireworks Due to Injury Hazard](#)

[07/10/08 - Parragon Books Recalls Children's Necklaces Due to Risk of Lead Exposure](#)

[07/10/08 - Shoelace and Necklace Children's Charms Recalled by Action Products International Due to Risk of Lead Exposure](#)

[07/10/08 - Lip Gloss and Jewelry Sets Sold Exclusively at Wal-Mart Recalled by F.A.F. Inc. Due to Risk of Lead Exposure](#)

[07/17/08 - All-Terrain Vehicles Recalled By American Honda Motor Co. Due to Risk of Loss of Control Hazard](#)

[07/17/08 - Studio RTA Recalls TV Stands Due to TV Tip-over Hazard](#)

[07/17/08 - SunL Group Inc. Recalls Youth ATVs Due To Safety Defects](#)

[07/22/08 - Sleep Innovations Recalls Pillows Sold Exclusively at Costco; Metal Fragments Pose Abrasion Hazard](#)

[07/22/08 - It's MY Binky Recalls Personalized Pacifiers Due to Choking Hazard](#)

[07/22/08 - Electra Bicycle Company Recalls Amsterdam Bicycles; Chain Can Derail and Pose Injury Risk to Riders](#)

[07/24/08 - Remote-Controlled Helicopter Toys Recalled by Innovage Due to Fire and Burn Hazards](#)

[07/24/08 - Kids II Recalls Infant Rattles Due to Choking Hazard](#)

[07/24/08 - Horseshoe Magnets Recalled by Dowling Magnets Due to Violation of Lead Paint Standard](#)

[07/25/08 - Children's Stuffed Toys Recalled By Daiso Due to Choking Hazard](#)

[07/29/08 - Wooden Toys Recalled by Earthentree Due To Choking and Strangulation Hazards](#)