

Common Health and Safety Concerns in Child Care

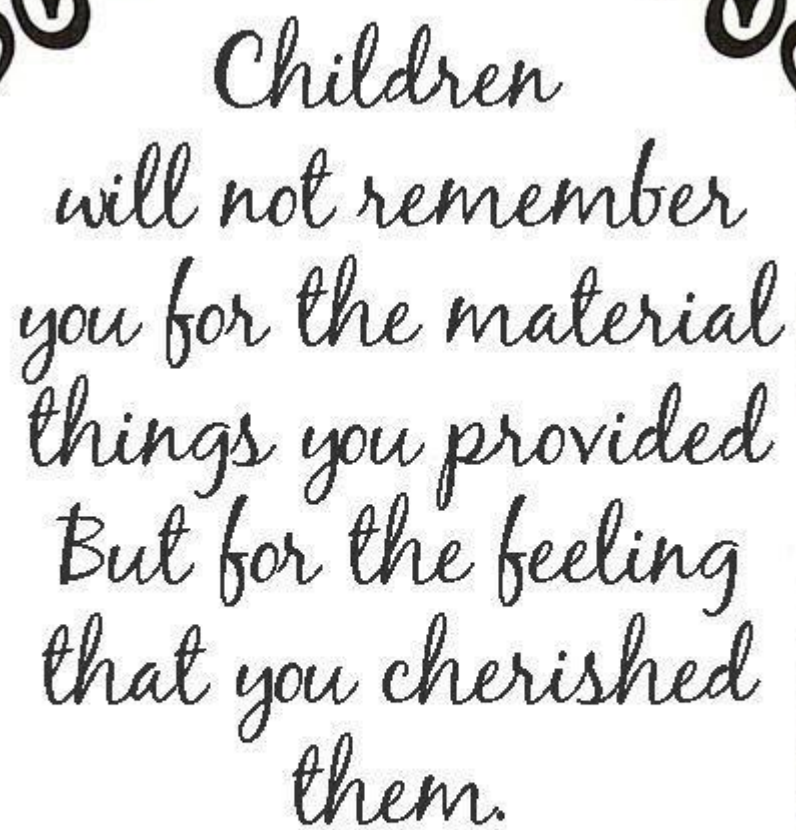
SENDCAA Fall Conference

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Child Care Aware of ND

Lutheran Social Services of ND



Children
will not remember
you for the material
things you provided
But for the feeling
that you cherished
them.

-Richard L. Evans



A child whose behavior
pushes you away is a
child who needs
connection before
anything else.

-Kelly Bartlett
Encouraging Words for Kids

Objectives

- Participants will be able to recognize common safety hazards in indoor and outdoor child care environments.
- Participants will learn what to look for when using/buying equipment and materials for child care.
- Participants will learn safe practices in order to prevent injuries.

Supervision

- › Most important thing to remember!
- › National Standards for Child Care
 - › Supervision = “keeping infants, toddlers, and preschoolers within sight and hearing at all times, even when the children are in sleeping areas”
 - › School-age children should be within sight and/or hearing at all times

Supervision

- › Licensing

- › Supervision = a staff member responsible for caring for or teaching children being within sight or hearing range of an infant, toddler, or preschooler at all times so the staff member is capable of intervening to protect the health and safety of the child
 - › School-age children = a staff member responsible for caring for or teaching children being available for assistance and care so that the child's health and safety is protected

- › “Active” supervision is best

Supervision

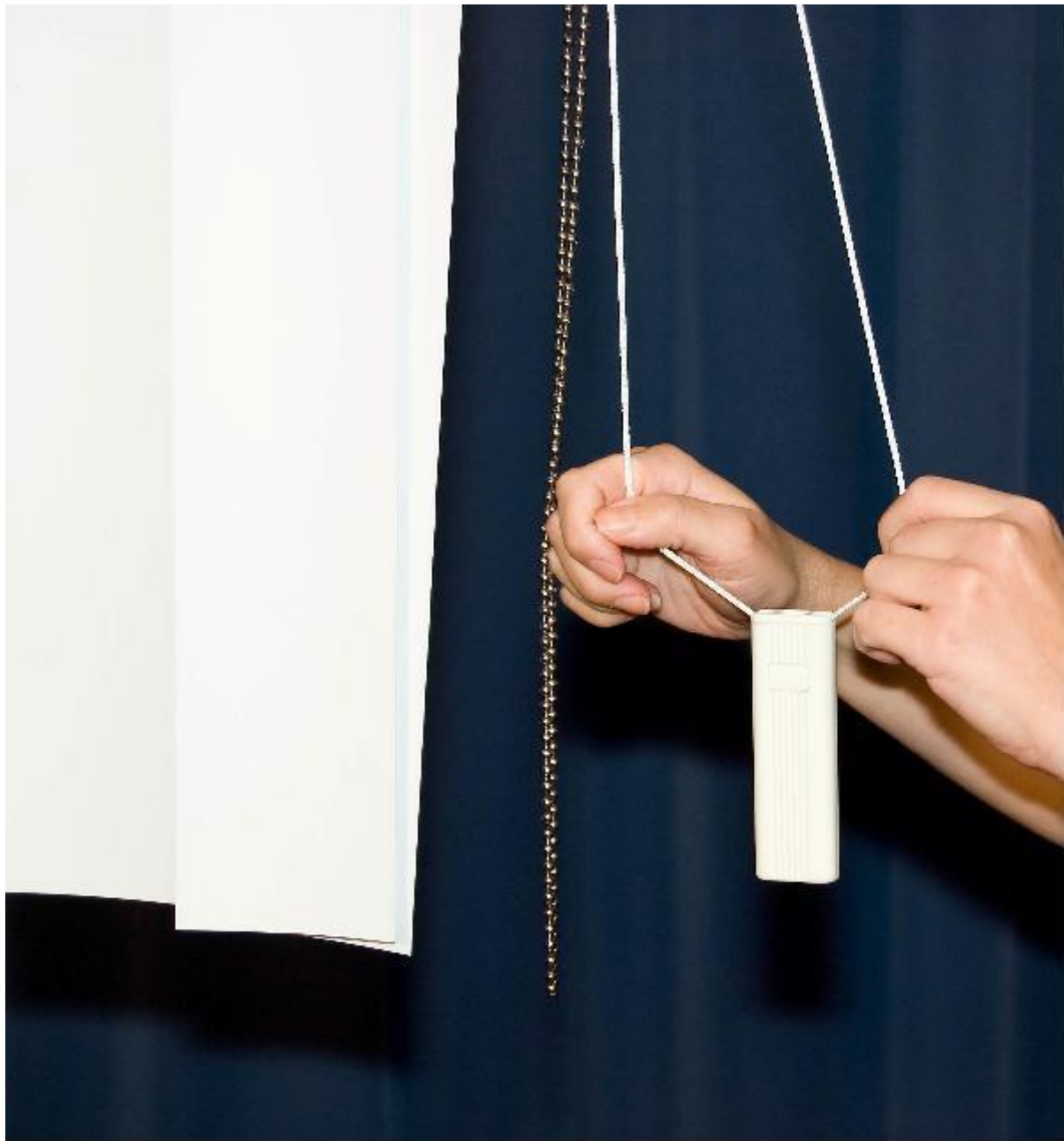
- Vision over hearing if you have to choose
- Playing – possible to take a safe toy and make it unsafe
- Sleeping
 - ❖ infants within sight – stay on the same level
 - ❖ infants on main level of home (fire)
 - ❖ all children on the same level (fire)
- Eating – always keep children in sight
- Diapering/Toileting – where are you diapering?
 - if on an elevated surface, keep hand on child
- What to do when you have to go to the bathroom?
- What to do when you make meals?

Daily Safety Checks

- Quick scans of indoor and outdoor areas before children arrive
Examples – butane lighter, cleaning supplies
- Get down on hands and knees to see things from child's level



Keep items
that may contain
coin-sized
lithium batteries
out of reach
of children.



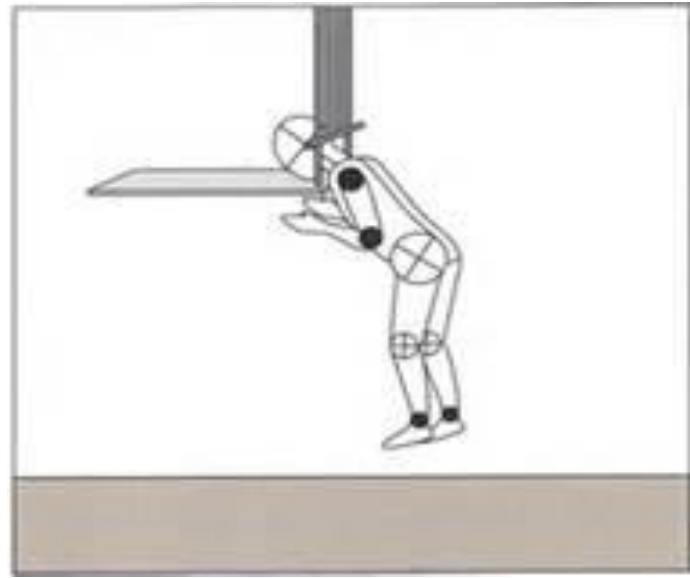






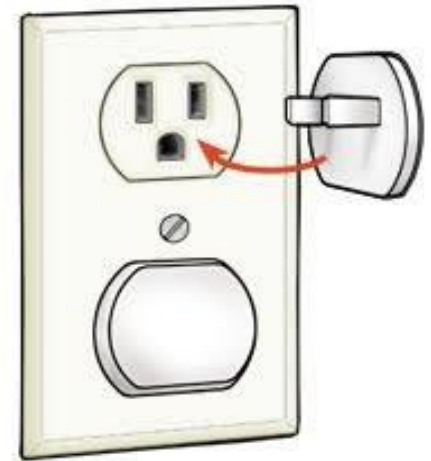
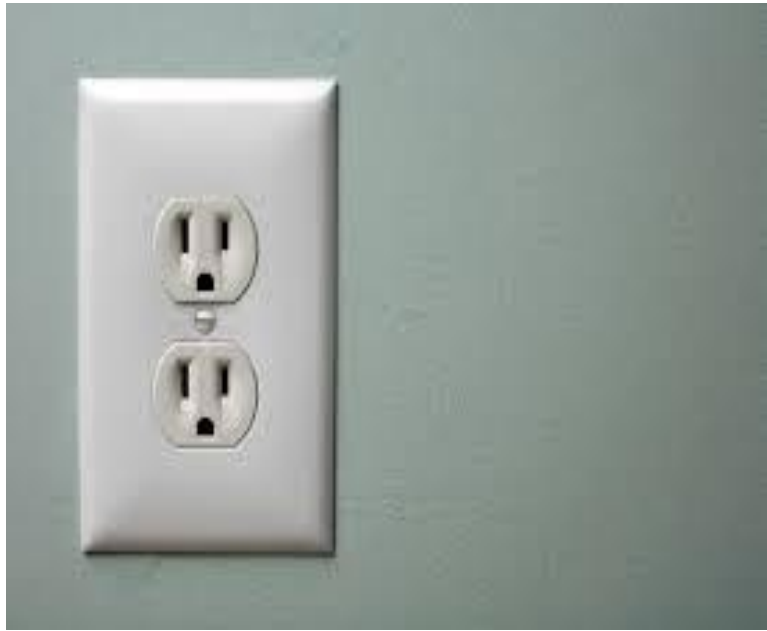












Outlet plugs























When purchasing/selecting

- Check for recalls www.cpsc.gov
- Look at age recommendations
- Select washable items if possible
- Fabrics: Select “flame retardant free”
- Plastics: Select “BPA, Phthalates, or PVC free”
- Wood: Select non-toxic paints, dyes, stains, varnish, sealants, and finishes

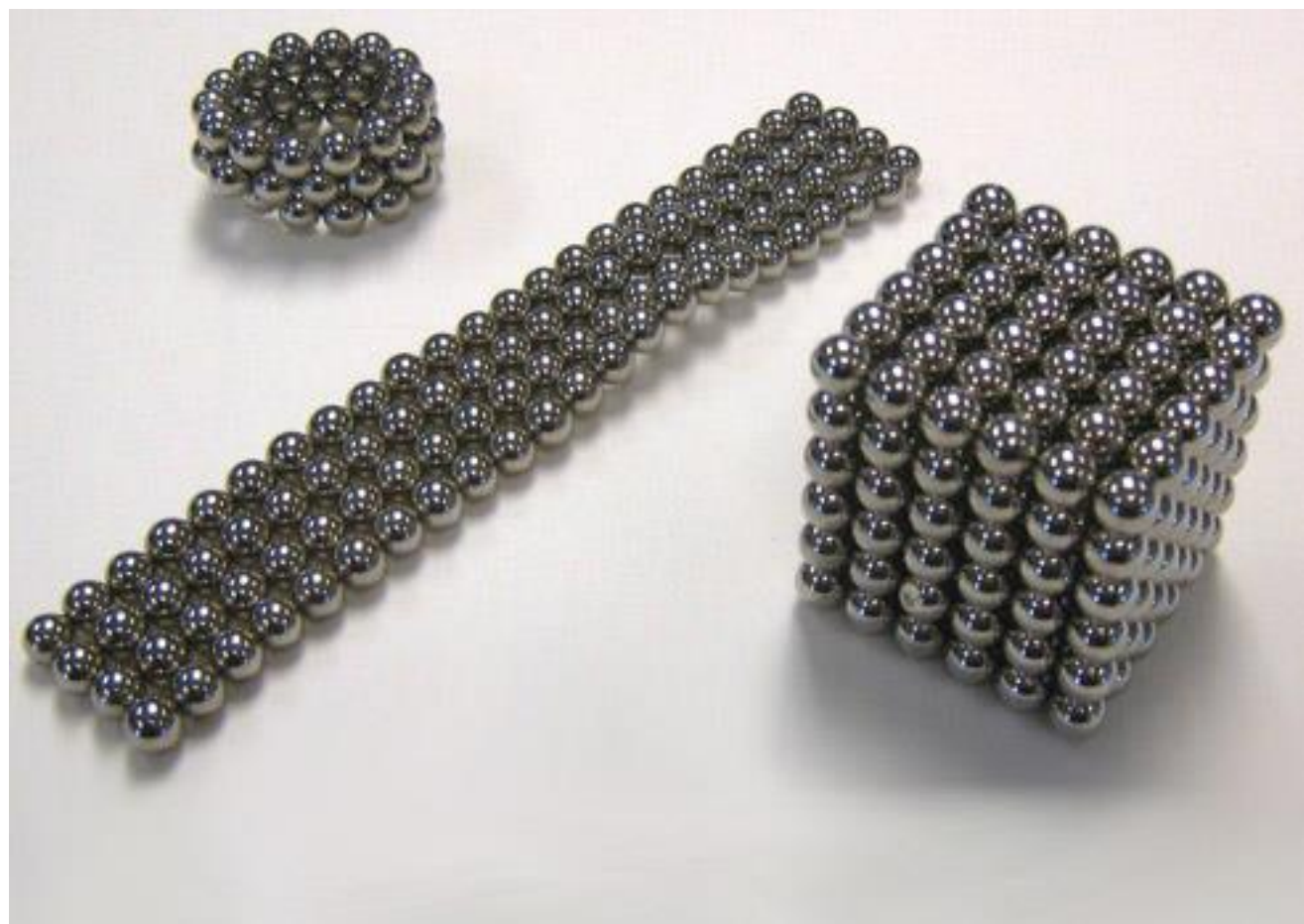
Check equipment/materials often

- Check for broken or cracked items – sharp edges
- Check hardware
- Check enclosures for battery items
- Check stitching, seams, sewn on buttons/items
- Check for rust

Mixed ages

- Separate toys
- Separate areas if possible – remember supervision
- Check often to see if toys get mixed













Eating

- Choking – cut infant food $\frac{1}{4}$ ", toddler food $\frac{1}{2}$ "
- Do not allow children to walk around while eating or drinking
- If a child falls asleep eating, wake up the child before laying down
- Temperature – test food/bottles; do not use microwaves for bottles or for infant food
- No disposable utensils or Styrofoam dishware and cups for those under 3 years of age
- Allergies – talk to parents before starting new food with infants; care plan and emergency medication on hand if child has an allergy

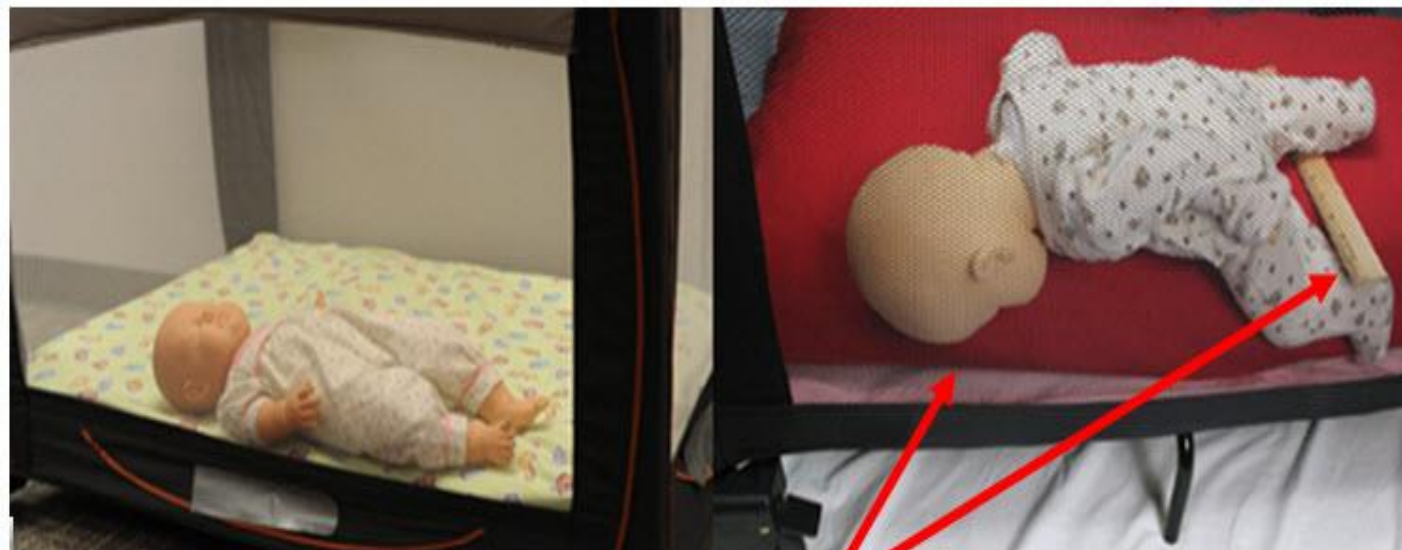
Cribs

- Must be manufactured after June 28, 2011 or be in compliance with the new federal guidelines
- Check hardware – make sure nothing is missing and hardware is tight.
- Mattress in lowest position
- Tight fitting firm mattress

Pack-n-Plays

- New safety guidelines went into effect Feb 2013
- Sturdy frame
- No holes in mesh
- Bottom of pack-n-play: lays flat; meets 4 corners of frame; wood panels intact
- No extra padding allowed
- Replacement pads must be manufacturer/model specific
- Velcro straps
- Sheets must fit properly – pad must lay flat
- If sheet doesn't fit – use without sheet





2 ½-inch gap between the mattress and
the side of the play yard.





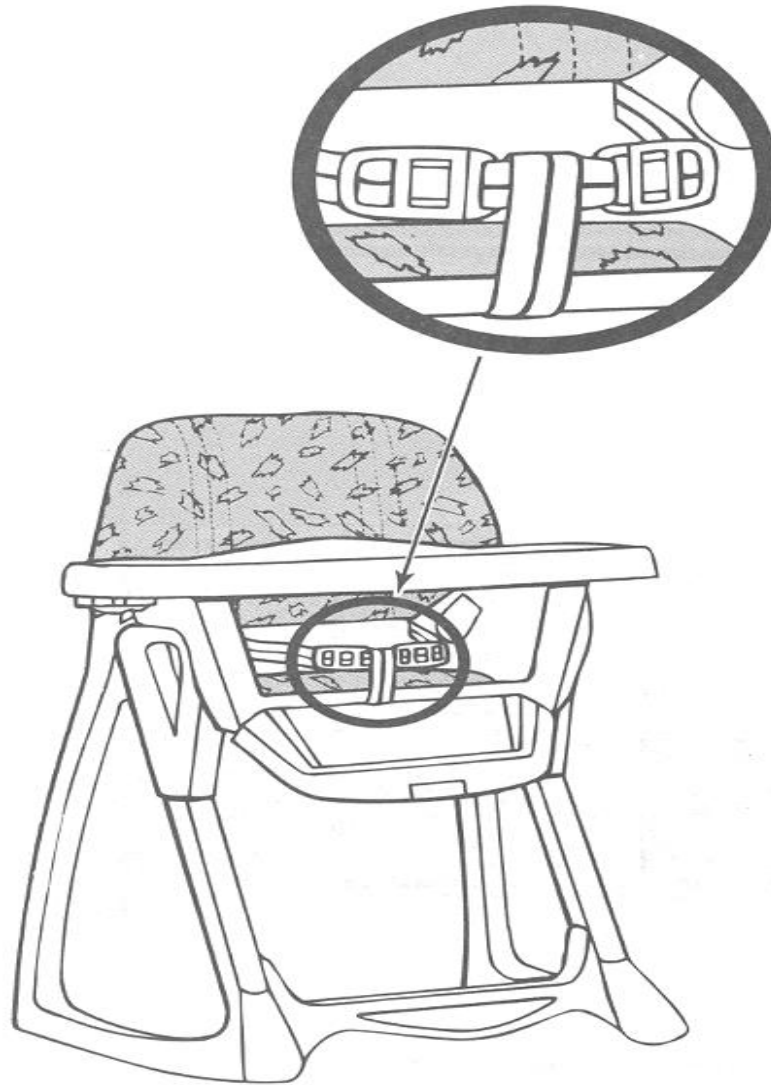
Restrictive Environments

- Supervise when using
- Do not place on elevated surfaces or near stairs
- Limit time – 15 min/2 times per day
- Not to use for sleep
- Always use safety straps

Safety straps

- › Make sure they are used whenever using equipment
- › Make sure the straps are adjusted properly for each child
- › Make sure infants are supervised when using equipment
- › Deaths have occurred due to strangulation

Easy-to-operate safety belt with crotch strap.











Medication Storage

- Out of reach and sight or locked
- Not on counter or window sill
- Emergency medication (EpiPen, inhaler, etc.) out of reach, but unlocked.
- Check diaper bags

OTC/Homeopathic/Herbal

- Directions are not commonly on labels
- Homeopathic/Herbal are not regulated by FDA
- Recommended to obtain written orders for use from health care provider
- Provider/program can refuse to allow



POISON
Heip
1-800-222-1222











Art supplies/sensory play

- › Uncooked kidney beans
- › Permanent markers
- › Choking hazards (small eyes, marker caps, broken crayons, Styrofoam, etc.)
- › The Art and Creative Materials Institute, Inc. (ACMI)
www.acmiart.org



Conforms to
ASTM D 4236

Sensory table materials

- › Food (mixed message)
- › Toxic (kidney beans, treated soil)
- › Choking hazards (uncooked pasta, packing peanuts)
- › Sand or water only for older infants and toddlers
- › Make sure sand is labeled for sandbox use/safe sand material
- › No sensory table for children under 18 months

Aerosol sprays

- Not recommended
- Can irritate eyes and airways
- Examples: art supplies, sunscreen, insect repellent, air fresheners, disinfectants
- If you do use aerosol sunscreen or insect repellent, do not use inside or in a small space. Spray on your hand, then apply to child.
- If you have to use other aerosols inside, try to use when children are not in the area

Chemicals and Children

- Children put things/hands into their mouths
- Crawl/play on the floor
- Breathe faster
- Developing bodies
- Rapid metabolism
- Read the label - Use according to directions
- Make sure surfaces/items are dry before children use
- Don't spray around children

Water Safety

- Toilets
- Buckets/containers of water
- Sensory tables
- Swimming pools
- Hot tubs

Water Temperature

The table shows that a person will receive a second degree burn in 3 seconds of exposure and a third degree burn in 5 seconds of exposure to water of 140° at the discharge outlet.

Celsius Temperature	Fahrenheit Temperature	2nd Degree Burn No Irreversible Damage	3rd Degree Burn Full Thickness Injury
45°	113°	2 hours	3 hours
47°	116.6°	20 minutes	45 minutes
48°	118.4°	15 minutes	20 minutes
*49°	120°	8 minutes	10 minutes
51°	124°	2 minutes	4.2 minutes
55°	131°	17 seconds	30 seconds
60°	140°	3 seconds	5 seconds
*Activation temperature=120° max (response time is less than 5 seconds)			

Outdoor Safety Risks

- Playground equipment
- Vehicles – keep them locked
- Storage sheds/garages
- Wheeled equipment – wear helmets
- Garden tools
- Lawn mowers – remove keys
- Decks
- Fencing
- Don't play in driveway



What the Driver Sees

What the Driver Can't See



Playground

- Anything over 18" should be placed over protective surfacing indoors or outdoors
- Type of surfacing
- Height of equipment – 1 foot per age of child
- Proper depth of surfacing – initial fill of 12 inches, maintained at 9 inches
- Fall zones – 6 feet (space movable equipment)
- Head entrapment hazards – 3.5 to 9 inches
- Look for broken toys
- Anchor equipment if possible
- Make sure equipment is dry; free from rocks, sand, wood chips, etc.
- Check area for animal waste
- Check area for garbage (broken glass, sharp objects, cigarette waste, etc.)





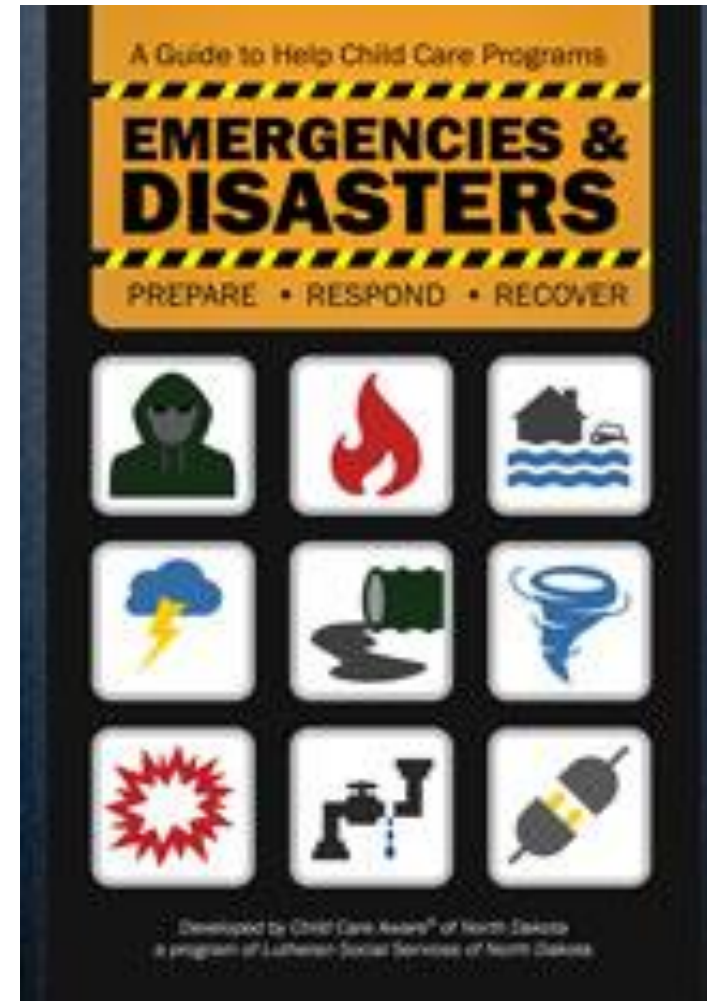
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Emergency preparedness

- Smoke detectors – check monthly; change batteries yearly
- Keep egress windows clear
- Fire drills – monthly
- Tornado drills – once a tornado season (monthly)
- First aid kits stocked and accessible
- Emergency contact information is UTD
- Emergency kits
- House or apartment number is visible from street or road
- SFN 517
- New manual on our website

www.ndchildcare.org

Run Your Child Care Emergencies & Disasters



Additional Resources

- www.ndchildcare.org
- www.safekids.org

YOU ARE MAKING
A DIFFERENCE
EVERY
day.

In conclusion....

Any questions?

Thank you for all you do!

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