



Child Care Safety Checklist

FOR PARENTS & CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

BE SURE YOUR CHILD CARE SETTING IS AS SAFE AS IT CAN BE

About 31,000 children, 4 years old and younger, were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for injuries at child care/school settings in 1997. CPSC is aware of at least 56 children who have died in child care settings since 1990.

In a recent national study, CPSC staff visited a number of child care settings and found that two-thirds of them had one or more potentially serious hazards. Use the safety tips in this checklist to help keep young children safe.



Child Care

SAFETY CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS AND CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

CRIBS

Make sure cribs meet current national safety standards and are in good condition. Look for a certification safety seal. Older cribs may not meet current standards. Crib slats should be no more than 2 ³/₈" apart, and mattresses should fit snugly.

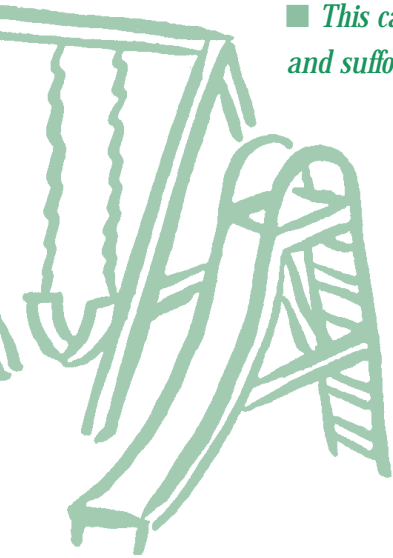
■ *This can prevent strangulation and suffocation associated with older cribs and mattresses that are too small.*



SOFT BEDDING

Be sure that no pillows, soft bedding, or comforters are used when you put babies to sleep. Babies should be put to sleep on their backs in a crib with a firm, flat mattress.

■ *This can help reduce Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and suffocation related to soft bedding.*



PLAYGROUND SURFACING

Look for safe surfacing on outdoor playgrounds – at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand or pea gravel, or mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials.

■ *This helps protect against injuries from falls, especially head injuries.*

PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE

Check playground surfacing and equipment regularly to make sure they are maintained in good condition.

■ *This can help prevent injuries, especially from falls.*

SAFETY GATES

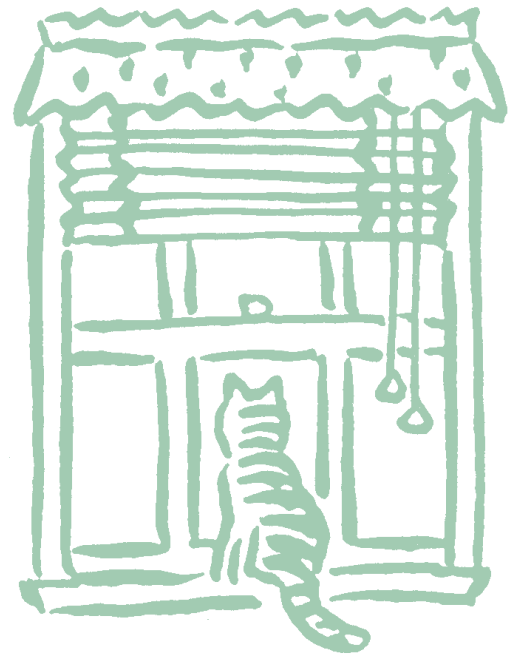
Be sure that safety gates are used to keep children away from potentially dangerous areas, especially stairs.

- *Safety gates can protect against many hazards, especially falls.*

WINDOW BLIND AND CURTAIN CORDS

Be sure miniblinds and venetian blinds do not have looped cords. Check that vertical blinds, continuous looped blinds, and drapery cords have tension or tie-down devices to hold cords tight. Check that inner cord stops have been installed.

These safety devices can prevent strangulation in loops of window blind & curtain cords. See windowcoverings.org for more safety info.



CLOTHING DRAWSTRINGS

Be sure there are no drawstrings around the hood and neck of children's outerwear clothing. Other types of clothing fasteners, like snaps, zippers, or hook and loop fasteners (such as Velcro), should be used.

- *Drawstrings can catch on playground and other equipment and can strangle young children.*

RECALLED PRODUCTS

Check that no recalled products are being used and that a current list of recalled children's products is readily visible.

- *Recalled products pose a threat of injury or death. Displaying a list of recalled products will remind caretakers and parents to remove or repair potentially dangerous children's toys and products.*



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about children's safety and recalls of children's toys and products, contact:

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Washington, DC 20207



Toll-free hotline: 1-800-638-2772

Website: www.cpsc.gov