

CHECK YOUR CHILD CARE CENTER: INSIDE & OUT

PLAYGROUNDS

LOOK FOR SAFE SURFACING ON INDOOR AND OUTDOOR PLAYGROUNDS—This protects against head injuries from falls.



WINDOW COVERING CORDS

CHECK THAT WINDOW COVERING CORDS HAVE NO LOOPED CORDS OR CHAINS—This helps prevent strangulation.



CRIBS

PUT BABIES TO SLEEP ON THEIR BACKS IN CRIBS WITH FIRM, FLAT MATTRESSES; NO SOFT BEDDING; NO MISSING AND BROKEN PARTS.



RECALLED PRODUCTS

CHECK THE HIGHCHAIRS, BABY WALKERS, INFANT SWINGS AND OTHER CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS TO SEE IF THEY HAVE BEEN RECALLED.



For more child care center safety tips, go to CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov, www.recalls.gov and New Parents Network Web site www.npn.org.

NEW PARENTS NETWORK®

A non-profit organization founded in 1988



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

CPSC hotline: 800-638-2772
and 800-638-8270 (TTY)



NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY NETWORK
A PROJECT OF THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Sign up to receive free NSN safety alerts and posters at

www.cpsc.gov

Child Care Center Safety Tips

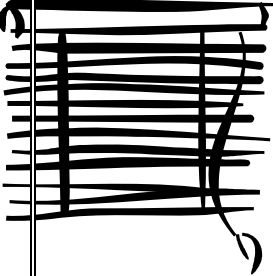
To help care givers and parents provide a safer environment for young children, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) offers the following safety tips checklist.

Outdoor Playgrounds

Look for safe surfacing on playgrounds – wood chips, mulch, and shredded rubber are good shock-absorbing materials. In addition, regularly check playground surfacing and equipment to make sure they are well-maintained.

Proper and well-maintained playground surfacing helps protect against serious head injuries from falls.

Window Covering Cords

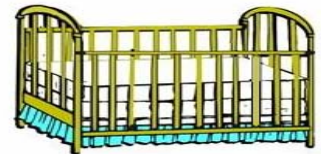


Be sure window covering cords (for miniblinds, Venetian blinds, and curtains) do not have looped cords or chains. Check that vertical blinds, continuous looped blinds, and drapery cords have tension or tie-down devices to hold the cords tight. Install cordless window coverings in children's bedrooms and play areas. For a free repair kit for cords, contact the Window Covering Safety Council at (www.windowcoverings.org or 1-800-504-4636).

Safety devices for window covering and curtain cords help prevent strangulation in the loops of these cords.

Cribs

Babies should be put to sleep on their backs in cribs with firm, flat mattresses and no soft bedding (like quilts, pillows, and pillow-like toys). Cribs should meet current safety standards, be assembled correctly, and have mattresses that fit snugly.



Cribs without soft bedding and without loose, broken, or missing hardware help prevent strangulation and suffocation.

Drawstrings

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

Outerwear without drawstrings – which can catch on playground and other equipment – helps prevent strangulation.

High Chairs

Check that children in high chairs are always restrained by safety straps around the waist and between the legs. Most high chairs also have a hard plastic restraint between the legs. Straps and restraints can prevent children from climbing out of high chairs or slipping between high chair trays and seats, risking head entrapment.



Safety straps and other restraints help prevent falls – and strangulations – associated with high chairs.

Changing Tables

Children can easily fall off changing tables – which is why you should never leave children unattended on changing tables. When using a changing table, always keep one hand on the child.

Always keep one hand on a child when using changing tables to help prevent injuries associated with falls.

Recalled Products



Check that no recalled products are used in your home or child care center. Recalled products have caused burns, broken bones, strangulations, and electrocutions.

Recalled products can pose a risk of injury or death. Displaying a list of recalled products in child care centers reminds both caretakers and parents to remove or repair potentially dangerous children's toys and products.

For More Information

To learn more about product safety, go to CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov or call CPSC's hotline at 1-800-638-2772. To receive a free subscription of "Safety News," a quarterly, hard copy publication of CPSC announced recalls, please call our toll-free Hotline. To join CPSC's list for instant e-mail notification of recalled consumer products, go to www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp. To find out more about all products recalled by the federal government, visit www.recalls.gov.