

Take Action to Prevent Child Injuries

Road Safety

Families:

- watch children carefully
- teach young children never to cross or walk along a road unless accompanied by an adult or older child
- prevent children from playing near the road
- teach children not to run after balls, moving toys or kites that go on or near the road
- instruct children to walk on the side of the road, facing traffic
- If there is a sidewalk, teach children to use it rather than walk on the road.

Children:

- stop at the side of the road
- look both ways
- listen for cars or other vehicles before crossing
- hold the hand of another person
- in urban areas, use pedestrian crossings

Water Safety

- cover wells and water tanks so children cannot open them
- turn tubs and buckets upside down when not in use, and always supervise children taking a bath
- teach children to stay away from ditches and drains
- for families who live near bodies of water, install a fence around the house and close the gates to prevent young children from going in the water
- fence ponds and pools with vertical rails spaced close together to prevent children from getting through them to the water
- teach children how to swim when they are young
- always supervise children who are swimming
- in flood-prone areas, carefully watch children when the water begins to rise; be well informed of safe places to go to if you need to leave home quickly.

Burns, scalds and shocks

- keep young children away from cooking fires, matches, paraffin lamps, candles and flammable liquids such as paraffin and kerosene
- put stoves on a flat, raised surface out of the reach of children
- do not leave small children alone near fires or to tend fires or cook
- turn the handles of all cooking pots away from the reach of children
- keep hot foods and liquids in a safe place and out of children's reach
- never hold a child when having hot liquids or foods.
- teach children never to put their fingers or other objects into electric sockets
- cover power sockets to prevent access.

In order to improve the situation of the world's children everyone has to participate. UNICEF believes that every individual can play an important role in promoting and protecting the rights of children. The first step is concern, the second step is knowledge, the third step is action.

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Falls

- discourage and prevent children from climbing onto unsafe places
- do not allow children to play on stairs and balconies, and, if they do, watch them closely
- use railings of appropriate width and height with vertical bars on stairs, windows or balconies
- keep the home clean, well lit and free of sharp objects and rough edges
- do not leave infants unattended on beds, cots, hammocks or in walkers or other baby equipment

Poisoning

- All medicines, chemicals and poisons should be stored in their original containers, tightly sealed and out of children's reach. Poisons should never be stored in food or beverage containers.
- Detergents, bleaches, chemicals and medicines should never be left where children can reach them. They should be tightly sealed and labeled. They should also be locked in a cupboard or trunk or put on a high shelf where children cannot see or reach them.

Dog Bites

Parents:

- Educate children. Children who understand how to act around dogs, how to play with dogs, when to leave dogs alone and how to properly meet a dog are much less likely to be bitten.
- Supervise your children. Unsupervised children may innocently wander too close to a dangerous situation.

Children:

- Don't treat a dog unkindly. Never hit, kick, slap or bite a dog or pull on his ears, tail or paws.
- Never bother dogs with puppies or dogs that are playing with toys, eating or sleeping. Don't approach a dog you don't know.
- Never approach a dog that is tied up, behind a fence or in a car.
- If you want to meet a dog, first ask the owner for permission. If the owner says it's OK, hold out your hand in a fist *for* the dog to sniff. If he's interested, you can give him a little scratch under the chin (not over the head) and say hello.
- If a loose dog approaches you, stand still like a tree. Keep your hands at your sides, and stay quiet and calm. Look away from the dog.
- Always make slow movements, set things down carefully and don't run when you're around dogs, as this gets them excited and they may accidentally hurt you.

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