

SAFETY ALERT

PREVENT INJURIES at your CHILDCARE CENTER



Many claims that are reported by childcare centers are easily preventable. Please be aware of what you can do to help prevent injuries in your childcare center.

BOTTLE WARMERS AND CROCK-POTS

A fourteen-month-old child suffered second- and third-degree burns on more than half of his body after pulling the cord of an unsecured crock-pot full of scalding water.

Prevention: Bottles should be served at room temperature or warmed by submerging in a cup of warm tap water. If child's formula is required to be heated using a crock-pot or bottle warmer, these recommendations should be followed: (1) Never allow water used to heat the bottle to exceed 120° F; (2) Place crock-pot or bottle warmer in an area completely inaccessible to children; and (3) Remove slack from excess cords by tying off with a twist tie or zip tie.

TELEVISIONS AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

A six-year-old child's upper leg was fractured when a TV stand tipped forward unexpectedly. The child climbed on the bottom shelf of the cart to turn on the TV.

Prevention: Mount a television on the wall or secure it to the stand or shelf. Be sure to avoid top-heavy configurations.

DOOR JAMS – FINGERS AND BODY PARTS

An 18-month-old child tried to follow a teacher outside when the door closed on the child's finger. The force generated by the closing door was so great, the fingertip was amputated.

Prevention: Put finger-safe protective devices on all doors. Teach children not to play near doors.

PEER ABUSE

Child-on-child sexual and physical abuse is on the rise. Unfortunately, this has been attributed to distracted staff due to understaffing and lack of training resulting in negligent supervision.

Prevention: Ensure proper ratios are always maintained and limit cell phone usage and other distractions while working with children.

BABY GATES AND ROOM DIVIDERS

A parent holding her child fell when she attempted to step over a baby gate and subsequently fractured her knee. Fortunately, the child was not seriously injured, but head trauma or broken bones could have easily occurred.

Prevention: Baby gates should only be used if they are at least 36 inches tall. Parents and staff must never attempt to step over gates. Post signs alerting the presence of gates.

SLIP AND FALL – WET SURFACES AND SPILLED FOOD

A state and police investigation was triggered after a five-year-old child slipped and fell in a freshly mopped bathroom entrance. The child's leg was broken in three places.

Prevention: Clean all spills immediately and use warning signs to draw attention to the area. Use rubber-backed rugs that won't fold and create a tripping hazard.

For more information on these and other injury prevention ideas, please visit www.thesilverlining.com.