

Injury Prevention

The Year of Safety



**"Safety is
Everyone's
Responsibility"**

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*Newsletter by
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Dates to Remember

November :

- National Homeless Awareness Month
- Thanksgiving Nov. 27
- Remember to change the batteries in your smoke alarms



**EARLY LEARNING
COALITION**
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

"Nurturing the young children of Southwest Florida and those who care for them".

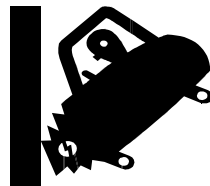
"Fall" Safety



Injury Prevention Tips for Parents and Caregivers:

Playgrounds give children a place to develop physical and emotional skills to last a lifetime. However it can also be a dangerous place.

Adults must make sure that playgrounds are safe.



The most frequent injuries are falls.

A fall onto a hard surface such as dirt, grass, gravel or concrete can cause serious injuries.

For example: if a child falls from an eight foot high slide and lands on asphalt, it is like hitting a brick wall at 30 mph.

Do not rely on state inspectors to identify Safety hazards or concerns. Use a standard safety checklist or create your own. Have your staff use it to notify you of repair needs. This checklist should be part of your mandatory staff training.

Encourage staff and parents to look at the playground area and equipment before the children are allowed to enter the area. Look for broken glass, sharp rocks, sharp edges, and loose or faulty equipment. Safety is everyone's responsibility.

Get the kids involved,,, make it one habit, you can't live without.

Most playground injuries are caused by one of four things:

- ø Equipment is too tall
- ø Surface underneath the equipment is: to hard
- ø Equipment is: broken or not anchored properly
- ø Children are not properly supervised

Websites for Injury Prevention:

<http://www.sosnet.com/safety/safety1.html>

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/playpubs.html>

<http://www.aap.org/family/playgrd.htm>

