

The Year of
Safety

Injury Prevention

SUMMER

Safety over the summer... what can you do?

"Safety is

Everyone's

Responsibility"

Inside this issue:

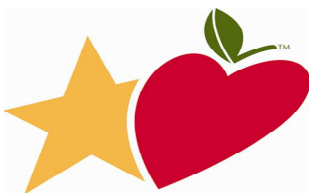
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Dates to Remember

May—Women's Health Month
June— Men's Health Month
- Home Safety Month
July— 4th of July
August—Childs Eye Health & Safety Month

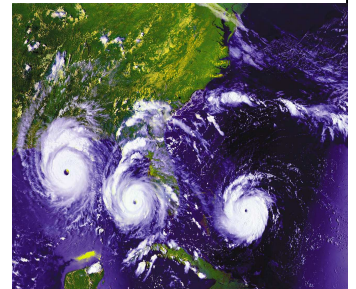


**EARLY LEARNING
COALITION**
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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

Prepare for:

- Hurricane season - it starts June 1st and lasts till November. Get your home and your facility prepared. There are free resources you can download or obtain to guide you. Don't forget to trim the trees from around buildings and clean up debris that could become a missal during a storm.
- Next school year - what better time to look at how you can improve the safety at your facility and at home. What repairs do you have to make to inside and/or outside equipment? Taking time during the summer could save you time and money during the school year.
- Reviewing and updating - pull out all your facilities plans; fire drill evacuation routes, lockdown procedures, emergency call lists, etc. Training needs for you and your staff. Review the web sites below for more ideas and information. Check out the Early Learning Coalition web site as well. The ELC nurses will be available for training starting in August. Take advantage of this service that is provided to you. Watch the ELC website for updates on trainings during the summer months. CPR is mandated and the schedule for classes is posted.



Don't forget; to wear your seat belt and put your infant /child in an approved child safety seat. Because... it's the law.

Web sites to review:

<http://hurricane.accuweather.com/hurricane/index.asp>
<http://www.floridadisaster.org/family/>
<http://healthykids.us/illness.htm>
<http://www.floridadisaster.org/>
<http://www.naccrra.org/disaster/>
<http://nrc.uchsc.edu/RESOURCES/VAEmergencyPreparBro.pdf>

PARENTS CORNER

- Have a great summer!
- Eat healthy, exercise and get plenty of rest.
- Spend time with your kids; reading, playing, and exploring their world.
- Model good hand washing, sing happy birthday two times while washing and encouraging them to sing too.
- Encourage your kids to think about safety when they are playing. Praise them when they demonstrate good judgment and safe practices.
- If your infant /child is ill, do not send them to child care or camp. Stopping the spread of germs starts at home.

What was covered in the Health & Safety news letters from August 2008 to April 2009

What an exciting first year of this news letter it has been. We have covered a wide variety of topics. All issues are available for review, download, and printing at the Early Learning Coalition website <http://www.elcofswfl.healthtopics.html>.



August 2008: Back to school safety, seatbelt usage for infants and young children. It's the law, use the seatbelt or appropriate child safety seat. Health insurance for children is very important and is available through KidCare. [Apply online](http://www.floridakidcare.org), (www.floridakidcare.org).

September 2008: Fire & electrical safety. Make safety your #1 priority this year. Start with learning to stop, drop and roll. Learn how to use a fire extinguisher. Your local Fire Department can usually come to your facility to aid you and your staff with hands on demonstrations. Other topics were: common colds; how do we get them? How do we treat them?

October 2008: Halloween safety; choking hazards and CPR training. Candy is not the only item that can cause choking in children. According to the CDC, candy was associated with 19% of all choking-related emergency department visits by children 14 years and younger. Of these cases, 65% were related to hard candy and 12.5% were related to other specified types (chocolate candy, gummy candy, chewing gum, etc).

November 2008: Fall safety; Playgrounds give children a place to develop physical and emotional skills to last a lifetime. However it can also be a dangerous place. 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. Lead poisoning, product recalls, food safety and family section were also covered in this issue.



December 2008: Holiday safety. Poison prevention tips. The plants that you have at home or at your facility could pose a threat to the children that come in contact with them. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), approximately one tenth of one percent (0.12%) of residential fires involve a Christmas Trees, both real and artificial. Other safety points were reviewed as well.

January 2009: Hand washing; Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps we can take to decrease the spread of germs and avoid getting sick ourselves. Wash your hands with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds. Tetanus in child care and what is a Medical Home and why to we need one, also covered this month.

February 2009: Dental Health & Safety; Dental carries are a real threat to our children's health. Preventing them is key. Bacteria + Sugar + Teeth = Decay. What can you do to help? Peanut butter recalls– how does that affect your center? More information on KidCare insurance rounded out the month.

March 2009: Fire & Electrical Safety. Smoke inhalation, severe burns, and death from fires are devastating events, most of which are preventable. Smoke alarms are required to be installed and maintained by each facility. The batteries (even back ups) are to be replaced at least once a year. What about common colds? Prevention is the key, but what do you do when you get a cold?

April 2009: Autism Awareness Month; Do you know the signs? 1 in 150 people are being diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum. Safety is a big issue for our facilities. Children with Autism may not speak and or may not follow directions like the other students. You should have a emergency plan and practice it with all the children. Assign an adult to shadow that child who does not speak or follow directions well.



Being prepared, for any type of emergency, is everyone's job. Staff, parents and children should be involved in the planning and implementation of drills. Practice, practice, practice! It is well worth your efforts now, and could prevent a real disaster from occurring later.