



Quality ChildCare

For Registered Home-Based Providers

CENTER ON THE FAMILY ★ UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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10 Hallmarks of Quality Child Care

1. Build trusting relationships
2. Provide consistent care
3. Support children's health
4. **Provide a safe environment**
5. Provide positive guidance
6. Provide a language-rich environment
7. Foster curiosity and development through play
8. Individualize care and learning activities
9. Partner with parents
10. Pursue personal and professional growth

This Month's Hallmark of Quality Child Care

Provide a Safe Environment

Daycare Dangers that Result in Insurance Claims

Young children are curious and unpredictable. They explore their surroundings by touching, tasting, and climbing on things. Knowing that this is the way children learn, providers should make the child care area safe. Prevention of accidents starts when you go through your home safety check by the Hawai'i Department of Human Services during your licensing process. However, your responsibility for keeping children safe doesn't end there. Injury prevention is an on-going daily process. In Hawai'i, between 2007 and 2011, 46% of all deaths of children ages 1-4 were the result of unintended injuries. According to a consortium of insurance companies that offer coverage for child care centers and family child care homes, there are seven common dangers that most frequently result in serious injuries and deaths in child care programs. They are:

- Using slow cookers to warm bottles
- Heavy objects falling over
- Door hinges trapping fingers
- Drop-sided cribs
- Unsafe playgrounds
- Kids left in hot vehicles
- Unexplained Sudden Infant Death

In this newsletter, we'll share excerpts from *Seven Common Daycare Dangers*, a guide about some of the common dangers leading to serious injuries and death in child care settings, as well as suggestions for prevention. For the complete pdf article which includes a safety checklist for providers, go to www.CultureofSafety.com.



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Bottle Warmer Burns

The most common cause of unintentional scald burns are hot liquid spills from a countertop or stove. According to the Children's National Medical Center – Department of Trauma and Burn Services, more than 24,000 children are burned by hot liquids each year and most of these spills tend to be closely connected to the heating of formula or breast milk. Studies have shown that milk taken at room temperature or straight from the refrigerator is just as healthful as warmed milk. Bottle warming appliances, microwave ovens, and slow cookers all present risks of burning children. Bottle warmers frequently overheat and catch fire; microwave ovens heat unevenly; water in a slow cookers can reach temperatures in excess of 160 degrees, even when set only on the warm setting. Slow cookers overturned by a child pulling on the cord have been the most frequent cause of serious 2nd and 3rd degree burns of young children.

Safety tip: If you feel you must warm the bottle, hold it under warm running water for a few minutes and always test the temperature (nothing higher than body temperature) prior to offering it to the child.



Falling Objects

"Daycare Dangers" cites the story of a two-year-old child who was crushed to death when a bookcase she was climbing tipped over and fell on her. Between 2000 and 2013, 430 tragic deaths occurred due to heavy objects falling over. From 2011 through 2013, an estimated 38,000 annual injuries from falling objects occurred in the U.S., many of which were serious. Bookcases should be secured to the wall and the heaviest objects placed on the lower shelves. Other heavy objects that children have pulled over on themselves causing injury and/or death are televisions, aquariums, chests of drawers, and kitchen ranges.

Safety tip: Supervise children who like to climb and ensure that these items in your home have been securely bolted to the wall with anti-tip brackets.

Door-Related Finger Injuries

The National Safety Council reports that more than 300,000 door-related injuries requiring emergency room treatment take place every year. The majority of door-related injuries requiring amputation occur in children under the age of 4. The worst cases are those with fingers caught in the hinge side of the door which exerts 40 tons of pressure per square inch as it closes.

Safety tip: Install a hinge guard around both sides of the door to prevent contact with the open hinge face. Hinge guards are inexpensive and can be found in any hardware store.

Drop-Side Cribs

Since December 2012, new federal safety standards prohibit the use of drop-side rail cribs in child care centers and family child care homes. The new regulations also require manufacturers to ensure that cribs have stronger slats and mattress supports and better quality hardware. The danger from drop-side cribs comes from gaps that can form between the mattress and the drop side, especially when parts become loose or break. Other risks occur when the crib mattress in use is not fitted tightly.

Safety tip: Check that the cribs you are using are the stronger, safer cribs manufactured since June 30, 2011 and that the mattress fits snugly (you can't fit more than one or two fingers between the mattress and the crib slats).



Playground Injuries

Every year in the U.S., over 100,000 children require emergency room treatment as a result of playground injuries. Of the injuries that resulted in death, 56% were the result of strangulation and 20% from falls. On public playgrounds, most injuries occur on climbing features, while swings are responsible for most injuries on home/private playgrounds. Strangulation



occurs when a child gets hung up on an article of their clothing, or when their little bodies slip through a space that is not big enough for their heads to pass through. Injuries from falls occur when there isn't sufficient cushioning or large enough fall zones under and around equipment.

Safety tip: To prevent injuries in your own outdoor play area:

- install protective cushioning under equipment
- cover entrapment hazards (spaces between 3.5" and 9") under fences and guardrails, and on climbers
- ensure that swings, slides and climbers are spaced at least six feet apart, and
- don't allow children to wear clothing with drawstrings.

Before visiting a public playground with children, check it out to determine if any of the following safety violations are present:

- sharp edges and protruding bolts
- platforms and ramps without guardrails
- lack of protective surfacing under equipment

Even in a playground that meets all the safety standards of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, accidents can still happen. Remember, supervision is the key ingredient to prevent childhood injuries and death.

Citations:

Bottle Warming Safety. [Retrieved online on October 7, 2014] <http://www.mass.gov/edu/docs/eec/laws-regulations-and-policies/20120202-bottle-warming-safety.pdf>

Children's National Medical Center, Department of Trauma and Burn Services. *Scald Burn Prevention*. [Retrieved October 08, 2014] childrensnational.org/departments/resources-for-families/scald-burn-prevention?sc_lang=en

State of Hawai'i, Department of Health, Injury Prevention and Control Section (2013). *Injuries in Hawai'i 2007-2011*. [Retrieved online on October 8, 2014] <http://health.hawaii.gov/injuryprevention/files/2013/10/Databook-FINAL-Sept-20121.pdf>

West Bend Culture of Safety. *Seven Common Daycare Dangers* [Retrieved online on October 6, 2014] <http://www.cultureofsafety.com/>

Resources

Safe Sleep Hawai'i

<http://www.safesleephawaii.org/>
[Retrieved online on October 7, 2014]

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission On Safety

<http://www.cpsc.gov/onsafety/>
[Retrieved online on October 7, 2014]



Reflection Sheet and Award Book

- To receive the award book for this month, fill out your caregiver's reflection sheet and return it to the Center on the Family in the postage paid envelope by the deadline posted.
- Indicate if you would like to receive free technical assistance related to a child care issue.
- Update your address or contact information if any changes have taken place.

REMINDER: Registered QCC Participants can use their participation in the program to fulfill the relicensing requirement of "increased knowledge." Ask your DHS Licensing Social Worker about the requirements today.