



Introduce self in Child Care program

**** PiCC Brochure if appropriate ****

Outline

- Children and their Play
- Child Development and Safety
- Choosing Safe Toys
- Equipment Safety
- Other Inside Hazards
- Questions

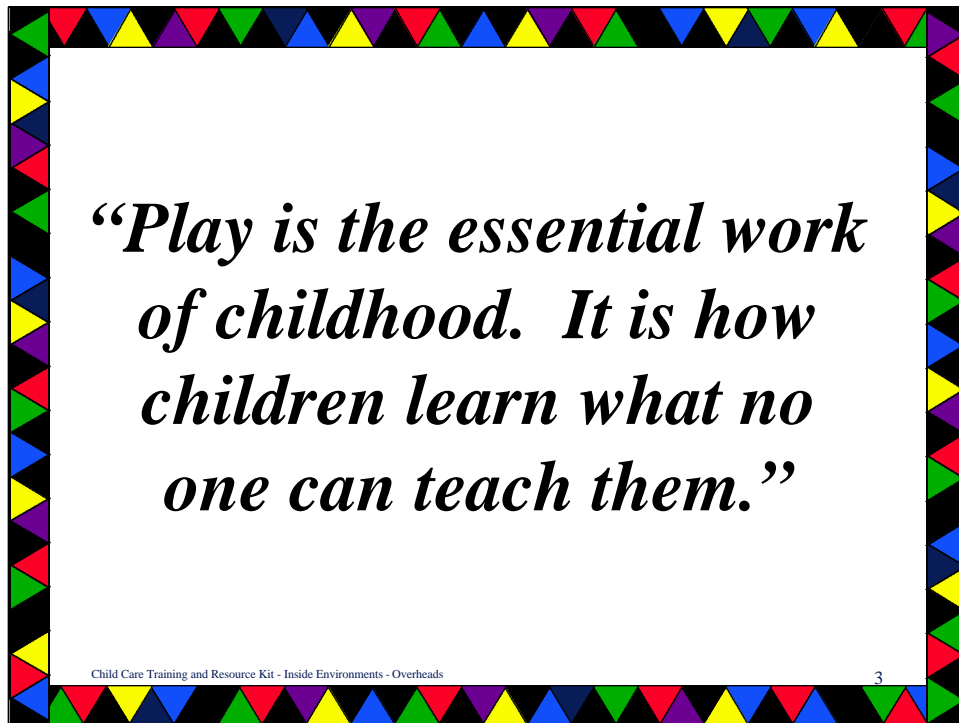


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Review outline...

First we will discuss the purpose of play, then how children's development relates to safety, what constitutes a safe toy. We will then cover some highlights of equipment safety and then discuss other inside hazards as time allows. Other hazards include poison prevention, safe art materials, and earthquake safety. There will be time for questions at the end, but feel free to ask questions during the class as appropriate.



Read slide. **Handout: ** Play is the essential work...****

Children learn by playing. Through play they learn and grow physically, mentally, and socially. They master a task and then move on to something more challenging.

It is the job of the caregiver to make the play environment safe for the child so that the play does not have to be constantly interrupted due to risks. “If play is a child’s work, the toys are the tools, and appropriate tools can help the child do their work well.”

The other important thing to know about play is how a child views their possessions. Read through the **Handout ** Toddler’s Credo ****

Emphasize the last point. Infants and toddlers are fascinated by their surroundings. And we all know that they put everything in their mouths. These are important things to think about when discussing infant and toddler safety.



Injuries are more likely when:

- Another child is ill or injured
- Providers are absent or busy
- Children are uninvolved, hungry or tired
- During field trips
- Hazards are too attractive
- Providers not familiar with children's abilities
- Late morning and late afternoon
- Any transition time

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Ask the providers to come up with those times when injuries are most likely to happen. See how many they can come up with (probably most of them).

Uncover and review the bullets.

It is important to be knowledgeable of the potential for accidents during these times and to keep your level of attention and supervision high.

Supervision is the key to safety

- No replacement for direct supervision
 - in risky environments or during certain activities
- Set reasonable, appropriate rules
 - simple, positive terms
- Tailor play to children
 - balance active play with quiet play
 - age grouping
 - variety of activities



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Speaking of supervision...this is a vital aspect of having a safe environment.

Review the main aspects of good supervision.



Safe learning through play can be accomplished by making sure the toys and the activities are appropriate for the AGE and DEVELOPMENT of the children.

Handout: ** Which Toy for Which Child Booklet **

Discuss interests and abilities of various age groups:

- Young Infants (0 to 6 mo.) page 5
- Older Infants (7 to 12 mo.) page 9
- Young Toddlers (1 year olds) page 13
- Older Toddlers (2 year olds) page 19
- Preschoolers (3,4, and 5 year olds) page 24

It is good to have a wide variety of toys. Rotate toys so not all are in circulation at once. This helps children become “well-rounded” people. Hands-on toys, books/recordings, art materials (their own design, not just coloring books), construction items (blocks), experimental materials (sensory table stuff), active play equipment (topic for next month, confidence)

Match toys to the individual child.



Handout: ** For Kids' Sake ** When choosing toys look out for:

sharp edges - toys for those under 8y.o. should have no sharp glass or metal.

small parts - wheels from cars, eyes and buttons from dolls, loose screws; no broken toys; marbles and jacks are only for older children

loud noises - caps and other noise makers can produce decibel levels that can damage hearing. Must have warnings that say don't fire closer than 1 ft to ear; other caps have been banned.

cords and strings - toys with long strings or cords may be dangerous to infants and young children causing strangulation

sharp points - stuffed toys may have wires inside the toy that can cut or stab (stuffed bug antenna)

propelled objects - projectiles - can be turned into weapons; lawn darts are banned

age restrictions - do not give a toy made for an older child to a baby

electric toys - must meet requirements for surface temperatures; only 8 y.o. and over; ex. ride-on battery powered vehicles made before Oct 1998 - fires;

{Plasticizers in teething toys - plastic-softening agent called diisononyl phthalate (DINP) used to soften polyvinyl chloride toys), animal studies with high doses resulted in liver/kidney damage and cancer; not very much released; additional studies being done; CPSC did not ban, but 90% of manufacturers voluntarily stopped using; pacifiers and nipples usually made of latex and silicone- except Gerber "Clear and Soft" - CPSC recommends discarding these }

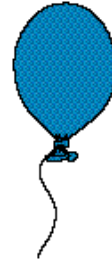
Also good to teach older children toy safety principles

Handout: ** ThinkToy Safety ** coloring book

By having children do these coloring pages and take them home, you are also educating

Guidelines for Choking Prevention

- ☞ Serve appropriate foods
- ☞ Eat while sitting
- ☞ Check toys for loose parts
- ☞ Avoid latex balloons
- ☞ Avoid plastic bags or styrofoam
- ☞ For infant/toddlers: no objects smaller than 1¹/₄ inches (Legos, beads, coins)



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* Review list **Optional Handout: ** Foods which may cause choking ****

Serve appropriate foods - infants and young children choke on foods because of immature chewing and swallowing skills; foods include those which are small, thin, hard, smooth, or slippery and can slip into the throat; hard foods (popcorn, raw vegetables) can break off and get stuck in the throat; thick sticky foods (PB, gum) can mold to airway and cut off air; small foods (peanuts, raisins) can be inhaled into lungs.

Sit while eating - allows concentration on chewing and swallowing; have a calm mealtime atmosphere

Toy safety - already talked about; infants are attracted to small objects and immediately put them in their mouths

Balloons - 110 choking/suffocation deaths (1973-1988); never allow children under the age of 6 to play with uninflated balloons without supervision

Plastic bags - (1980 - 1987) avg of 15 deaths/year in U.S.; Styrofoam - pieces of cups can break off and cause choking

* Demonstrate a no choke tube.

* Armed with this information on safe toys and choking hazards - test some toys

Have class attendees sort the toys into 2 piles (appropriate for age 3 and under and inappropriate)

Consumer Product Safety Commission

- For information about new or used toys and children's equipment
- Local contact : Jerry Bjork 253-946-4342
- National hotline to report products:
 - 1-800-638-2772 (eastern time M-F)
- Web site: <http://www.cpsc.gov>



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Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting “the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death from over 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency’s jurisdiction.”

Handout **CPSC Resources for Consumers **

Because many child care providers buy toys and equipment second hand, it is important to know the CPSC safety alerts and recall information.

* if hooked up the the WWW, show CPSC website and the incredibly long list of recalled toys and baby equipment.

Clarify terms - *alerts* are for awareness, *recalled* means there is something unsafe about that product and there is usually some measure or kit that can be used to remedy the problem, *banned* means the product can no longer be sold.

* If available, show second two clips from CPSC recall roundup news briefs
(Video from Jerry Bjork, CPSC)

Equipment Safety

- Play pens and play yards
- Strollers (child slips through leg opening)
- Baby walkers
- Cords, strings, necklaces
- Toy chests (suffocation)
- Car seats (recall notices)
- Cribs



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Infants and toddlers need special safety precautions. Using the **Handout **Baby Product Safety Alert ****, have the class select some products and the modification needed to make that product safe.

Play Yards/Playpens - protruding rivets pose a strangulation hazard if pacifier strings or clothing catches (8 deaths) - repair kit or refund available depending on the brand; refer to picture- head caught in "V"; those w/mesh sides can trap an infant if the side falls down.

Baby Walkers - at least 1 death and 29,000 injuries per year, most common injury is from falling down stairs (over half with gates); scalding because children can reach higher, travel at 3 ft/sec - can get to danger before you can reach them (13y.o. car keys analogy);

Toy Chests - 45 deaths (1973-1989); needs spring loaded lid support or remove lid; make sure there are air holes

Car Seats - will be discussed in the next class (Outdoor and Transportation Safety) - if you will not be attending next class, we have a list of all recalled car seats, please call.

Cribs - next slide



Crib Safety

- Corner posts should not stick up
- No more than 2 fingers should fit in the space between the mattress and sides of the crib
- Space between crib bars should be smaller than $2\frac{3}{8}$ "
- Mobiles and crib toys out of reach
- Once a child can push themselves up, remove hanging crib toys

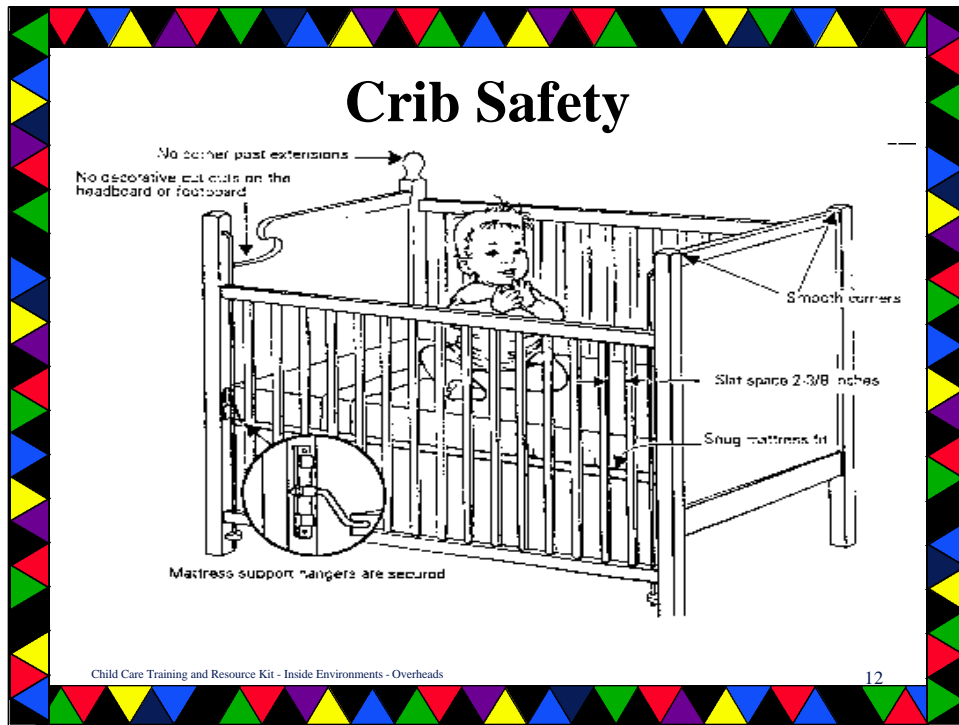
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Review this list.

Cornerposts should not project more than 1/16" above the end panel, can be an entanglement hazard - 48 strangulation deaths have occurred (1973-91).

Mattress should fit snugly and the mattress support hanger should be secure.

As a rough estimate, a pop can should not be able to fit between the crib bars.



Another concern is cribs with ornate cut-outs. Same rule applies as with the crib bars (no larger than $2\frac{3}{8}$ ")

Other Safety Considerations

- Climbing gyms (never on a hard surface)
- Window blind or drapery cords
- Bunk beds
- Beds/Waterbeds/Soft Bedding
- Drowning (5 gal buckets, toilets, bath, pool)
- Mini-Hammocks (w/out spreader bars)
- Halogen lamps, darts, bean bags, toasters

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Handout ** Never Put Children’s Climbing Gyms....**

Climbing gyms - 1 death and 12 serious head injuries - carpet is not soft

Blind & drapery cords - (1981-1996) 12 deaths/year in U.S. strangulation risk

Bunk beds - (1973-1988) 2 deaths/year - entrapments (3 1/2 inches); 39 deaths

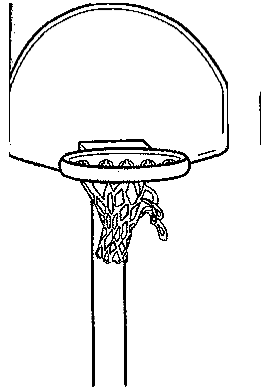
Beds, Waterbeds, Soft bedding - (suffocation) 40+ deaths/year; infant cushions have been banned following 36 suffocations - cushions conform to infant’s face or body;

Drowning - in buckets about 36 per year, 100’s more in tubs, toilets, etc; over 300 per year in home pools and spas

Mini-Hammocks without spreader bars - can twist around children’s necks as they are getting in and out; 12 deaths (return to store or destroy); Toy Basketball Nets - children can strangle on loops or openings in nets that come unhooked from rim or from sliding knots (20 reports of heads/necks caught, 1 death)

There is a lot to look for and be conscious of when you have little explorers in your home. {Optional ** To help you, **Handout: ** A family’s guide to child’s safety ****; review this handout. }

There are many products that have been recalled.



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There are many products that have been recalled. It is very easy to get items off store shelves, but a large number of items are still in people's homes. They are sold at garage sales and in thrift stores.

An infant died in an infant cushion 2 years after the initial recall announcement.

It is important to be aware of these items and to get them out of circulation.

** can show Video "Making It Safe" at this point if time permits **



Appliances - keep hair dryers and curling irons unplugged; for fire safety, wire guards for torchiere lamps; horizontal undercabinet toasters (Black&Decker Spacemaker Optima Model T1000 Type1) recalled in 1998 (caused 1066 fires and 8 burns); hair dryers without GFCI plugs (show example)

Scalding - a child's skin is thin and sensitive and burns much faster than an adults; can be life-threatening, long hospitalizations; scarring is permanent; Use a thermometer to check the water temperature - should be 120 deg F or less; lower temperature or install anti-scalding devices; takes only 7 to 10 seconds for 130 deg F water to cause a 2nd degree burn; Liquids at 160-180 can burn in less than a second.

Fire Safety - check fire alarms regularly, use the alarm for drills, replace batteries when you change your clock; Make sure you not only have a fire extinguisher, but that you know how to use it - your fire department can help you practice; be simple and literal in teaching fire safety

“Six year old boy who, when his house caught fire, began to roll around on the living room rug rather than try to evacuate. When asked later why he did that, he said he'd been told 'In case of a fire, stop, drop and roll.' No one told him that meant only if his clothes caught fire.”

Earthquake Safety

Assess the Needs of Your Facility

- Heavy items stored lower
- Tall bookshelves secured to walls
- Secure items with velcro or bungee cords
- Have a small 'lip' on your shelves
- Preventing injuries will make a tough situation easier



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This is the first step to being prepared in the event of an earthquake. If you do nothing else to get ready, do this step so that everyone will survive the earthquake with minimal injuries.

“During an earthquake, most deaths and injuries are caused by collapsing building materials and heavy falling objects.

As you look for hazards, imagine what would happen to the items in the room when the earth starts to shake. Come to the continuing education class “Get Ready, Get Set, Get Prepared” for a lot more emergency preparedness information.

Poison Prevention

- Store out of reach of children
- Always follow directions on products

READ THE LABEL

- Know the plants in your environment
- Be careful with pesticides




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“The dose makes the poison”

Poisoning - under age 5, accidental household poisonings are 50/year

Ask “What non-food items did you suck, eat, or chew on as a child?” (paper, paste, pencils, dirt)

Children put things in their mouths. Your job is to make sure that those items are not going to harm them.

Have unexpired syrup of ipecac available, only use under direction of poison control.

Different parts of plants are poisonous, such as the stems and leaves of tomato plants, but not the fruit. There are whole lists of poisonous plants.

*** Show Pictures **

Handout ** A Guide to Plant Poisoning Prevention and Treatment **

The biggest hazard is accidental overdoses of iron-containing supplements. Leading cause of pediatric poisoning deaths in children under six in US. As few as 5 pills can cause death.

Lead poisoning is another concern. Flaking paint from older homes is major source. Ceramic foodware from other countries may contain high amounts of lead.

Choosing Safe Art Materials

- Read the label
- CP or AP seals
- Age-appropriate materials
- Don't eat or drink while using
- Wash hands after use
- Beware of dusts, fumes, etc.



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“Safe” = knowledge of materials and their proper use makes art materials safe

Handout ** Alternatives to Toxic Art Materials **

Read the label - hazardous products have a signal word “warning” “caution”

ACMI (Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc.) - non-profit association of manufacturers; has a certification program for art products; every color of every product reviewed by a toxicologist; AP (Approved Product) and CP (Certified Product) seals identify safe products - conforms to ASTM D-4236 [American Society for Testing and Materials]-required as of 1990; CP = meets performance quality standards; Health Label (HL) seal = properly labeled, used on adult materials

Limit the amount of materials available at one time, less to ingest.; activity appropriate to the age group.

Wash hands after use. Make sure there are no open cuts or sores on children’s hands.

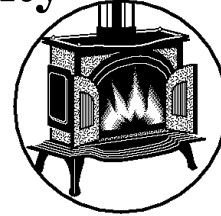
Powdered materials could be inhaled or get into eyes, even if non-toxic. Could cause slight respiratory irritation, Not recommended for use; dry clay is highly toxic by inhalation, moist clay is not - mop rather than sweep (asthma); dustless chalk

Fumes - products containing solvents such as rubber cement or permanent markers; don’t use products that require toxic solvents for cleaning (turpentine - 1/2 ounce can be fatal); “scented” non-toxic markers may teach children to sniff or taste art materials

Avoid sprayed art materials such as paints, fixatives, adhesives; CPSC reports over 5,000 emergency room visits each year from aerosol sprays; cans can explode, flammable

Indoor Air Quality

- Control moisture
- Control dust
- Be careful with combustion sources
- Be careful with chemicals
- Be aware of what you track in
- Use plenty of ventilation



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Asthma is epidemic among children. The quality of the air inside our homes and buildings is contributing to the problem. Buildings are tighter now than in the past and indoor pollutants stay inside. There are some simple things you can do to improve the indoor air quality and help children breathe better.

Review these items. More information available at Continuing Education Classes “Asthma Management” and “Healthy Environments”

Inappropriate Child Care Pets

- Reptiles 
- Psittacine birds 
- Exotic animals 
- Barnyard animals 
- Vicious animals 

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Reptiles, including turtles, lizards (including iguanas), and snakes typically carry salmonella (CDC estimates 90% carry some type of intestinal bacteria); severe complications can occur in infants and young children (under 5 y.o.)

Psittacoses birds - (hookbills) these are any birds in the parrot family (including parakeets). They can carry the illness, psittacosis, causing fever, chills, headache, coughing and can lead to pneumonia.

Exotic animals - Hedgehogs may carry salmonella and are not recommended for child cares; wild animals may behave aggressively towards children; prairie dogs (wild-caught) may carry plague

Barnyard animals - turkeys, chickens and ducks carry salmonella; if child care is on a farm environment, children should only interact with animals under strict supervision. Handwashing is essential after touching animals.

Vicious animals - child care animals should not behave aggressively around children; teach children to behave properly around animals; up to 1 million dog bite victims needing medical attention annually; children make up 60% of dog bite victims

If pets trigger asthma or allergy symptoms, they should not be in the child care home.

Keep Children Safe

- Most injuries can be prevented
- Regular checks of the environment should be made and improvements made
- Provide safety education for staff, children and parents
- Infants and toddlers require special safety precautions



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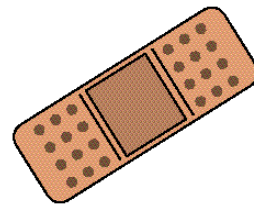
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Review these summary points.

Any questions?

Assignment for Credit (or further learning)

- Choose one of the three choices on the handout
- Must be postmarked no later than one week from today's date



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Handout ** Assignment **