



GLOBAL CHILDREN'S FUND
Information Brochure

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CHILD SAFETY FACTS & STATISTICS

How important is safety training to your family. Consider the statistics below, and then remember that these numbers occur each year. We think you'll develop a new appreciation for how very important safety training is. Experts estimate between 75 and 90% of these tragedies could be avoided through better safety awareness.

- Every year there are around 800,000 child abductions in the United States, taking into account all forms of abductions. That is one about every nine minutes.
- About 1,000 children choke to death each year.
- About 100 children are murdered each year at the hands of stranger abductors.
- Every year, there are around 4 million pet dog attacks in the United States. Most of these are on children.
- Accidental injury is the number one killer of America's children, taking more lives than disease, violence and suicide.
- Every year, approximately 250,000 children will sustain an injury from bicycle riding serious enough to warrant a trip to the emergency room.
- Each year, the poison control center receives more than 1 million calls from poisoning for children 5 and under alone.
- Each year there are around 3.4 million emergency room visits due to home accidents.
- About 60 children die each year in accidental firearm deaths, and several hundred more are injured.
- About 1800 children are killed each year in auto accidents.
- About 1,000 children die each year from drowning, and several thousand more suffer permanent injuries.
- There are around 380,000 residential structure fires each year.
- Between 500 and 600 children lose their lives in house fires.
- 150000 children are rushed to the hospital each year for toy related injuries.
- About 100,000 children are treated in emergency rooms each year for burns.
- About 8300 children are accidentally shot each year.
- 4000 children suffer brain damage each year from almost drowning.
- About 2,000 children 14 and under die each year from home accidents. 80% are ages 4 and under.
- There are between 600 and 800 child pedestrian deaths every year, and between 40,000 and 50,000 serious injuries

SEXUAL ABUSE FACTS & STATISTICS

What are the odds of sexual abuse happening to your child? Average statistical reports show that around 28 percent of children will be sexually abused sometime during their childhood. Here are some sobering statistics:

- Around 1 in every 3 girls, 1 in every 5 or 6 boys will be sexually abused during their childhood.
- Recent studies are beginning to show that boys, not girls, are more likely to be sexually abused outside of the home.
- About half of all molestations occur at the hands of a parent. The others occur at the hands of someone close to the child other than a parent.
- Less than 1 percent of all sexual abuse occurs at the hands of a stranger or abductor.
- As many as 60 percent of male victims report a female as either the primary abuser or a participant in some episodes of abuse.
- Child pornography is a Multi-Billion dollar business.
- In an average month, there are more than 10,000 child pornography sites open and accessible to anyone over the internet.
- False allegations are rampant in our society, while real cases of abuse are still seldom discovered.

NEARLY ALL CASES OF NON-PARENTAL SEXUAL ABUSE ARE EASILY PREVENTABLE!

WHEN IS A FEVER TOO HIGH?

Dealing with fevers is a natural part of parenting. But when your child is sick with a high fever, it can be a nerve wracking experience. This information will help parents discern when their child's fever is too high.

What is a Fever?

Fever is a body's natural response to fighting infection. The body temperature rises to aid the immune system in fighting off the unwanted invader. As such, fever is frequently used to gauge how sick a child is. Generally speaking the higher the fever, the harder at work the body is in fighting off the threat.

It is important to know that children's body temperatures can naturally fluxuate during the day by a degree or tow, and most kids will hit a high temperature of around 100.2 in the early evenings.

When do you call the Doctor?

For infants under three months old, anything 100.4 degrees (F) or above you should call the doctor. Infants between three and six months of age, call the doctor when temperatures are 101 degrees or above. For children six months and above, call when temperatures reach 103(F). All infant's temperatures should be taken rectally.

With older children, it isn't so much the degree that's important, but the symptoms that accompany it. Most parents choose to make an appointment when their child is showing significant symptoms and has a fever of 101 or higher.

When to take your child to the Emergency Room?

Children can have extremely high fevers when they are sick. It's not at all uncommon to see fevers of 104 or 105. Fever generally becomes dangerous at around 106 or above, where it has the potential to cause brain damage or other serious problems. Generally speaking, if your child's temperature hits 105, you should call a pediatrician immediately. Explain the symptoms and follow their advice.

In infants, you should call your doctor immediately if your baby's temperature is much higher than the guidelines listed above. Your physician will advise you on an appropriate course of action.

Reducing Fever:

Reducing a fever is only necessary to help in the child's comfort, or to get a dangerously high fever (105-107) under control. Otherwise it is not necessary to treat a fever. If your child seems comfortable, it is best just to let it run it's course. The most recommended medicine for treating fever is Children's Motrin or Children's Tylenol. You can also lay a wet cloth over your child's forehead or give them a **sponge bath using water at room temperature**. Do not use hot or cold water, or alcohol.

Food & Fluids:

You should not force food on your child when they have a fever, but allow them to eat as they desire. You should encourage them to **drink extra fluids** to avoid dehydration.

Other Danger Signs to look for:

No matter what your child's temperature, seek immediate medical care for the following symptoms:

- Rapid or weak pulse
- Child is irritable, confused or lethargic. (Doesn't wake up easily)
- Difficulty breathing
- Refuses to eat or drink for extended period
- Shows signs of severe dehydration
- On rare occasions, some children may experience fever convulsions, which are related to a rapid climb in temperature rather than a very high temperature. If this happens call your Dr. immediately for guidance in handling the condition. Once a high fever has developed, the risk of a seizure drops.

Trust Your Instinct:

You know your child and you know when your child isn't acting quite right. A fever of 102 degrees may be more serious than one of 105 depending on the symptoms. Watch your child closely when they're sick, and trust your instinct.

Sources:

University of California, Irvine Medical Center. American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, Comer Children's Hospital at University of Chicago

THE DANGER OF SIDS

SIDS is well heard of and talked about, but very little is understood about the condition. Even doctors and scientists disagree about what it is, though some guidelines have been established. We hope this information helps shed some light on the subject:

What is SIDS?

SIDS stands for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. It most commonly occurs between 2 and 4 months of age. (90% of deaths occur before 6 months, and it's rare under 6 months of age.) It is an unexplained death that occurs when the child is sleeping. It is generally recognized as a medical disorder, and is the leading cause of death in infants.

What Causes SIDS?

The exact cause of SIDS is still a mystery, although most scientists believe it to be caused by a vulnerability in brain function or the nervous system, causing difficulties with heart rate and respiration during sleep. It is believed to be aggravated by external factors, such as sleeping a baby on their stomach. Many infant deaths are also likely a case of environmentally caused suffocation during sleep, but since the death is unexplained, it is classified as a SIDS death.

Risk Factors for SIDS:

Researchers have documented some risk factors that increase the likelihood of SIDS.

- Mother smoking during pregnancy increased the risk by 3 times.
- Exposure to cigarette smoke in the home after birth. (Twice the risk)
- Being of African American heritage puts baby at 2 ½ times the risk.
- Being of Native American heritage (Three times the risk)
- Mother being less than 20 years old for her first pregnancy
- Short interval between pregnancies
- Late or no prenatal care
- Low birth rate
- Multiple births

Reducing the Risk of SIDS:

- 1 Always place babies of their backs to sleep, even at nap time.
- 2 Use proper sleep surfaces, such as approved crib mattress with a fitted sheet.
- 3 Keep soft objects out of the crib, such as blankets, pillows quilts, crib bumpers, or stuffed animals.
- 4 Don't let your baby overheat during sleep. Dress them in light clothing, keep the room at 68 to 72 degrees, and don't bury them under blankets.
- 5 Avoid letting baby's sleep on sofa's or waterbeds as these can be a suffocation hazard.
- 6 It is believed that pacifiers reduce risk, though scientists are not quite sure why. Consider using one when sleeping, though don't force it on the child.

Special Notes:

Once your child is old enough to roll over on their own, and rolls to their tummy when you place them on their back it is OK to allow them to sleep in their preferred position.

If your infant has chronic gastro-esophageal reflux disease (GERD) or other upper airway malformations, check with your doctor to ensure it is safe for them to sleep on their back.

Sources of Information:

American SIDS Institute, National SIDS Center, Nemours Foundation

TOOTHPASTE

THE POISON YOU PUT IN YOUR MOUTH

Of all the poisons parents keep in their house, toothpaste is a poison frequently overlooked. That's right, toothpaste. We frequently get questions from parents wondering why this item is listed as a hazardous substance to children. Here's why.

The active ingredient in nearly all toothpaste is some form of Sodium Fluoride, which is actually a toxic poison. It is contained in quantities of around 1% of the total paste, but it is still enough to cause serious problems if overdosed. This is the reason they tell you on the tube to contact poison control if more than what is used for brushing is ingested. It's also the reason why swallowing even the small amount used for brushing can give kids a tummy ache.

This poses an even greater threat, because the flavored pastes, complete with sparkles, which children are used to putting in their mouth, makes it a convenient "candy" for a bored child. Depending on the age and weight of a child, ingesting even as little as half of a tube could be fatal.

Children under 3

Consider toothpaste among one of the more dangerous things you keep in your house, and keep it in a locked cabinet at all times. If you have older children in the house, clearly explain the danger it poses to their younger siblings, so they can help keep it away as well.

Children over 3

Children over three are old enough to be told about the danger it can pose. Just explain that, although very good for our teeth, it isn't good for our stomachs. Let them know that swallowing any more than just what they use for brushing means bad business, and they should never eat it like candy.

If accidentally Ingested

Swallowing toothpaste rather than spitting it out causes nausea and diarrhea. If you believe a child has ingested more than what is used for brushing, call poison control immediately. Their new national number is 1-800-222-1222.

Sources:

American Dental Association; American Association of Poison Control Centers; Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia