

Injury and Violence Prevention Center

Injury Prevention Parent Workshop Series

**Facilitator's Guide
2005**

Injury Free Coalition for Kids®

Children's Hospital of New York-Presbyterian

Columbia University



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Introduction

Injury is the leading cause of death and disability for children in the United States aged 1 to 21 years. While this statistic may sound discouraging, many severe childhood injuries and injury-causing incidents can be prevented through specific precautions that make a child's environment safer. The injury risks that a child confronts change over time as he/she grows and develops. Similarly, the precautions to protect the child must also change in response to the new hazards.

Parents can be the most effective agents of change for their children. Many other people—including neighbors, friends, family, community members, teachers, etc.—touch a child's life as well. All adults can contribute to making the environment safe for children in two ways: 1) through direct action (making environmental changes) and 2) through indirect action (supporting parents as they enact changes to protect their children, or advocating on behalf of parents and children to legislators and others). Parents and other adults in the community are both *responsible for* and *capable of* changing their homes and their communities to be more “kid-friendly”—that means, to be safer places for children to grow up.

The workshops described in this Guide are intended for parents of preschool-aged children who live in an urban environment. There are six workshops covering the following topics: the preventability of childhood injury; playground safety; bicycle/wheel safety; traffic and motor vehicle safety; and home safety. The suggested activities are interactive and require the participation of the parents attending the workshop. The written materials were designed to accommodate a variety of literacy levels. However, these materials are only take-home supplements to the group learning that the workshops promote. In fact, the workshops themselves do not depend on the written handout materials, but on the quality of the group activities. The most important components for workshop success are an energetic facilitator and the participation of all members of the parent group.

The activities can be adapted to many different settings, audiences, time frames, and student needs. This Guide will help you lead each session and adapt the materials appropriately to the particular circumstances, experiences, and interests of your group.

If you are reading this Guide, you are part of the solution to the pediatric injury problem. You are an advocate for children and an educator for parents. We thank you for taking on the responsibility of preventing injuries to children, and for helping us get the word out about building safe communities for the youngest members of society!

Glossary

<u>Advocacy</u> *	n. The act of pleading or arguing in favor of something, such as a cause, idea, or policy; active support.
<u>Cognitive Development</u> *	n. The growth and maturation over time of the mental process of knowing, including aspects such as awareness, perception, reasoning, and judgment.
<u>Developmental Milestone</u>	n. A skilled learned by a child during his/her process of growth often understood as a signal that the child has achieved a particular maturity expected for the child's age
<u>Hazard</u> *	n. 1. A chance of being injured or harmed; danger: <i>Space travel is full of hazards.</i> 2. A possible source of danger: <i>a fire hazard</i>
<u>Injury</u> *	n. 1. Damage or harm done to or suffered by a person or thing: <i>escaped from the accident without injury; a scandal that did considerable injury to the campaign.</i> 2. A particular form of hurt, damage, or loss: <i>a leg injury</i>
<u>Occupant</u> *	n. One that occupies a position or place: <i>the occupant of a motor vehicle</i>
<u>Pedestrian</u> *	n. A person traveling on foot, a person walking
<u>Pediatric</u> *	adj. Dealing with the care of infants and children and the treatment of their diseases
<u>Precaution</u> *	n. An action taken in advance to protect against possible danger, failure, or injury; a safeguard: <i>followed safety precautions when using heavy machinery</i>
<u>Risk</u> *	n. 1. The possibility of suffering harm or loss; danger. 2. A factor, thing, element, or course involving uncertain danger; a hazard: <i>"the usual risks of the desert: rattlesnakes, the heat, and lack of water" (Frank Clancy).</i>
<u>Severe Injury</u>	n. For the purpose of collecting data about injuries, any injury resulting in hospitalization or death

All definitions with an asterisk (*) were adapted from:

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Key Themes

There are four key themes that should be stressed throughout each of the six sessions and always when discussing safety with parents and other caretakers of children.

- ❖ **Child Development:** Children follow a natural course of cognitive (learning), emotional, and physical development. So, what is reasonable to expect from a four-year-old is too much to expect from a two year old, because s/he is not at the same level on the developmental spectrum. In addition, every child develops at his or her own speed. While there are “developmental milestones” that most children meet, the appropriate age range for meeting them varies considerably. The characteristics and developmental stage of an individual child should be considered when thinking about what safety hazards that child might face.
- ❖ **Supervision:** Children need *consistent, positive, directive* supervision and guidance. Adults play a critical role in protecting children from injuries by supervising children and their play environments, including toys, TV, video games, and playground equipment. Parents and caregivers *do* have the ability, and the responsibility, to supervise children’s play as well as their play spaces but without smothering their creativity, activity, and development.
- ❖ **Discipline:** Improving communication, discipline, and supervisory skills in parents may be injury prevention itself. Helping parents to express their feelings and concerns, and working with them to develop supervision and guidance strategies, will teach them to deliver firm, consistent, gentle, and effective discipline messages to their children, preventing both intentional and unintentional injury and positively affecting the parent/child relationship overall.
- ❖ **Preventability of Injury:** Most childhood injuries can be prevented and parents and caregivers have the power to do so! Many parents do not feel in control of their own or their child’s environment, or of their child’s choices and behaviors. But parents and caregivers are the most important and constant influence on young children. They are a child’s first teachers, and a child depends on them for examples of behavior, as well as for their safety, security, and well being. With some skills-building, support, and encouragement, parents will feel confident about their abilities to protect their children from injuries!

These four points form the foundation of this guide and of the six sessions described. Facilitators should remind themselves that these are the most important messages to get across each time. Directly or indirectly, the exercises during each lesson should bring parents closer to understanding these key themes, in addition to achieving the specific injury prevention goals of each lesson.

Evaluation

It is important to evaluate the effectiveness of this curriculum and assess its usefulness in teaching the principles of injury prevention. Please take attendance at each session. Have participants fill out the one page, anonymous evaluation form found at the back of the handout for each session and hand it in to you. Please send these back to us: they will be vital in knowing what to retain and what to change in this curriculum in future years.

Session I: Injuries CAN Be Prevented!

⇒ Pass around attendance sheet.

1.) Ice Breaker

Purpose: The icebreaker activity will allow the participants and the facilitator to get to know each other. The participants will learn the facilitator's reasons for conducting the workshop, and the facilitator will hear from each parent and find out the ages of her children. It is important that the facilitator be aware of the parents who have children younger or older than their Head Start child so that safety issues relevant to children of other ages may also be incorporated into the lesson. The facilitator can remind the parents who have only preschool-aged children that every parent will face new challenges as their little ones grow older, and that thinking now about the child's future will help her prepare for what is to come. Encourage the parents in the group to learn from each other's experiences (bad and good). Parents are their children's first teachers, and can be very effective at teaching one another. The icebreaker activity will help set the tone for participation from every member of the group and for the sharing of all experiences— both the successes and the challenges.

Action: Arrange chairs in circle if possible. Have each person in the circle state her first name, how many children she has, and how old they are. The facilitator introduces herself last, then goes into an overview of the workshop series and of today's workshop.

- ⇒ Use the Overview / En General sheet in the participant binder to outline the objectives of today's session.
- ⇒ Explain that today's session includes general information that may help them protect their children from injuries.
- ⇒ *Alternative:* If the participants already know each other and the facilitator, this activity may be skipped, or another warm-up activity may be substituted.

2) Brief Whole Group Discussion

Purpose: To further introduce the injury topic to the participants. This activity should make the parents aware of three points: 1) Injury is common—it is an inevitable part of life for all children as part of their normal development; 2) Severe injury, that is, injuries that result in hospitalization of a child, are much less common. Parents often think that these injuries are accidents that cannot be prevented, but that they will not happen to their own children; and 3) There **are** certain things that parents and other adults can do to make the places that children live and play safer for them, to protect them from a **severe** injury.

Action: Ask: "Raise your hand if any of your children has ever had to be hospitalized because of an injury." Count out loud, note on the board how many. Ask: "How many have had to take their child to the Emergency Room because of an injury?" Count out loud, mark down the number. Ask: "How many have put a band-aid on your child because of an injury—a scrape, cut, bruise...?" Point out that everyone (or almost everyone) has raised their hands.

The bottom of the Injury Prevention Pyramid, shown in blue on the cover of the materials for this session, and parent responses to the last question demonstrate that deaths and even hospitalizations from injuries are only a very small portion of the injuries that actually occur to children. Parents tend to think that injuries are not preventable – they are a normal, inevitable consequence of childhood

development. Because most injuries to children are not severe, parents feel that the really severe injuries will not happen to their own children. Severe injuries—injuries that result in hospitalization or death—are not common, but they do happen, and they are preventable. In this and the following workshops, we will be discussing the patterns that injuries follow, based on the age, developmental stage, and sociodemographic characteristics of children; and the ways parents can prevent severe injuries to their own children.

- ⇒ Emphasize child development: What is a hazard for a preschooler was probably not a hazard when the same child was only 4 months old, and it is not likely to be a hazard when the child is 8 years old. The safety risks in a child's surroundings are constantly changing as the child develops and learns new skills.

Children do get hurt as part of growing up, and often. There is no immunization for injury like there is for chicken pox or the flu. Exploration, and therefore injury, are parts of normal child development. Exploration is healthy, and sometimes will result in minor injury. On the other hand, there are certain things that parents and adults can do to make the places that our children live and play safer, and to avoid a serious, severe injury.

Ask two participant volunteers to share a quick story of a time that a child they knew, either theirs or someone else's, was injured. Allow only two stories.

- ⇒ With each story, ask the participants to think about why and how the child was injured, and what might have been done to prevent the injury or to make it less severe. Keep the conversation short and directed, and not judgmental or accusatory of the parent whose child was injured.
- ⇒ *Alternative:* Use two or three recent newspaper or magazine articles that describe a severe injury to a child. The articles should be short, obvious, and catchy, from a source that the participants would read. Ideally, the stories were ones that received a lot of press and will be familiar to most of the participants. Distribute the articles. Ask if anyone knows the story and can tell the group what happened. Then ask the questions above—why and how the child was injured, and what might have been done to prevent the injury.

3.) Brainstorming/ Webbing (see sample injury web, Figure 1)

Purpose: To help participants think about different types of injuries, what causes them, how they happen, and where they happen. Also to consider where in the web actions can be taken to prevent each kind of injury.

Action: Explain that as a group, you are going to think about different injuries and make a web. Ask: What are different kinds of injuries that happen to children? What accidents happen to children that make them get hurt?

- ⇒ Encourage participation by all; if the discussion is slow to start, use the two stories that were shared as examples.
- ⇒ Prompt the participants, especially if they are slow to start the discussion or if there is a pause in responses. Be sure to elicit a wide variety of responses that include unintentional and intentional injury and violence, putting it in impersonal story contexts (For example: What about a 17 year old who commits suicide, is that injury? Or-- What about a person who gets stabbed in a mugging? Or—When a child gets abducted? Is there emotional injury that could result? What about physical injury?)

- ⇒ Try to use examples that challenge norms about what constitutes injury—for instance, fears and experiences parents may have regarding violence in their neighborhoods; the emotional trauma of war, abduction, fleeing one’s country, etc.; or issues of discipline, family violence, and neglect and their long- and short- term effects on children.
- ⇒ Emphasize that “injury” is a broad term that encompasses many concepts, and that things we may not usually think of as injury (like gang violence) do fall under its umbrella.
- ⇒ Try to suggest examples that reinforce positive social norms or call attention to negative social norms in a gentle way. Encourage parents who mention model behaviors or who suggest broader definitions of injury, and attempt to bring up issues of community violence, family violence, sexual violence, etc.— but only if the group dynamic allows the discussion of such sensitive issues. What are the environmental factors in our community that facilitate violence in this community more than in others?

Next, ask: Where do these injuries happen?

- ⇒ Probe “where” for each different injury type on the list—e.g., in the home, on the street, at school, etc.

Next, ask: Why and with what do these injuries happen? (See Figure 2: Partial List of Causes of Injury)

- ⇒ Distinguish between the *mechanism* of an injury (e.g., fire, motor vehicle crash) and the injury itself (e.g., burn, broken leg).
- ⇒ Probe for social causes (e.g. city agencies ignore this neighborhood), probe for preventable factors (e.g. environmental factors, anger and stress management, behaviors like wearing a bike helmet), probe for tools that cause injuries (physical objects, e.g., firearms, matches, lighters, etc.).

4.) Lecturette

Purpose: To expose the participants to injury facts in general and specific to Washington Heights, and to the reasons why children are particularly vulnerable to injuries.

Action: Present the general injury statistics from the [Did You Know / Sabía Ud.](#) page in the participant binder. The facilitator can read them, or have participants read them aloud. Ask: Are injuries always accidents?

- ⇒ Explain that in injury prevention, we don’t use the word “accident;” ask the parents not to say it either, and then remind them!
- ⇒ We prefer the term “injury” or “event” because most injuries are *preventable*, and the word “accident” makes it sound like they aren’t. “Accident” implies that parents and adults are not capable of protecting ourselves and our children, when really, we are.

Next, ask: Why are *children* particularly susceptible to injury?

- ⇒ Emphasize the principles of creating a safe environment:
 - Child Development: Exploration is a normal part of child development. At each stage, children need to wander around their environment and try things out. So, especially as children become more and more mobile as they get older, we need to make sure that they don’t have the opportunity to try out things that could hurt them, by removing these things from their surroundings.
 - Supervision: Children, especially young children, are not yet able to control their impulses, distinguishing right from wrong, and knowing fantasy from reality. Supervision helps them learn these skills and provides the control and decision-making abilities that children themselves lack.

- Communication: Communicating with children is not the same as communicating with adults. It is a difficult balance between talking down to a child and talking to the child in a manner he or she can understand and will respond to. Establishing good communication with a child can help that child learn to express him/herself effectively and elicit the behavioral responses you desire from the child.
 - Discipline: Even though they complain about rules, children need limits to be set for them and enforced **gently, kindly, and consistently**. Children will keep testing the water to see how deep they can go—and if there is no boundary for them, they will inevitably fall too deep.
- ⇒ There are a few specific characteristics of children that make them more vulnerable to injury. They have less peripheral vision than adults. They don't understand future time or consequences to actions (cause and effect). They have short attention spans. They have difficulty judging their distance from another person or object and how fast it may be moving. They react slowly and it takes them time to process new information or visual stimulus. Lastly, they are not physically developed, so they have less control over their bodies, they have poor balance and coordination, and they are not as strong physically as adults.

Last, ask: *What is injury prevention?*

⇒ Wrap-up the above lecture/discussion and point out that it has been **proven** that injuries can be prevented. In Harlem, their push to put window guards on all windows reduced the number of children who fell out of windows by 96%. The Harlem Hospital Injury Prevention Program has also successfully reduced the number of children who die in motor vehicle crashes as well. Injury prevention is making changes in a child's home, school, and community to make them safer places for the child to grow up.

5.) Closing

Answer any questions, and review the resources sheet and other pages in the participant binder, especially the "Activities You Can Do With Your Child" ideas. Mention that the topic for the next session will be Playground Safety. Ask the participants to briefly fill out and hand in the evaluation sheet at the back of their binder materials. Remind them that the evaluation page is anonymous. Answer any questions they have about the form. Collect the evaluation and the attendance sheet to return to the Injury and Violence Prevention Center (IVPC).

Timing Guide for Injury Prevention Session I

Activity	Materials	Time Allotted
Ice-breaker		10 minutes
Discussion		15 minutes
Webbing	Chalkboard and Chalk // Easel, Large Paper and Markers	25 minutes
Lecturette		15 minutes
Closing	Binder Materials, Evaluation	5 minutes
Total Time		1 hr., 10 mins.

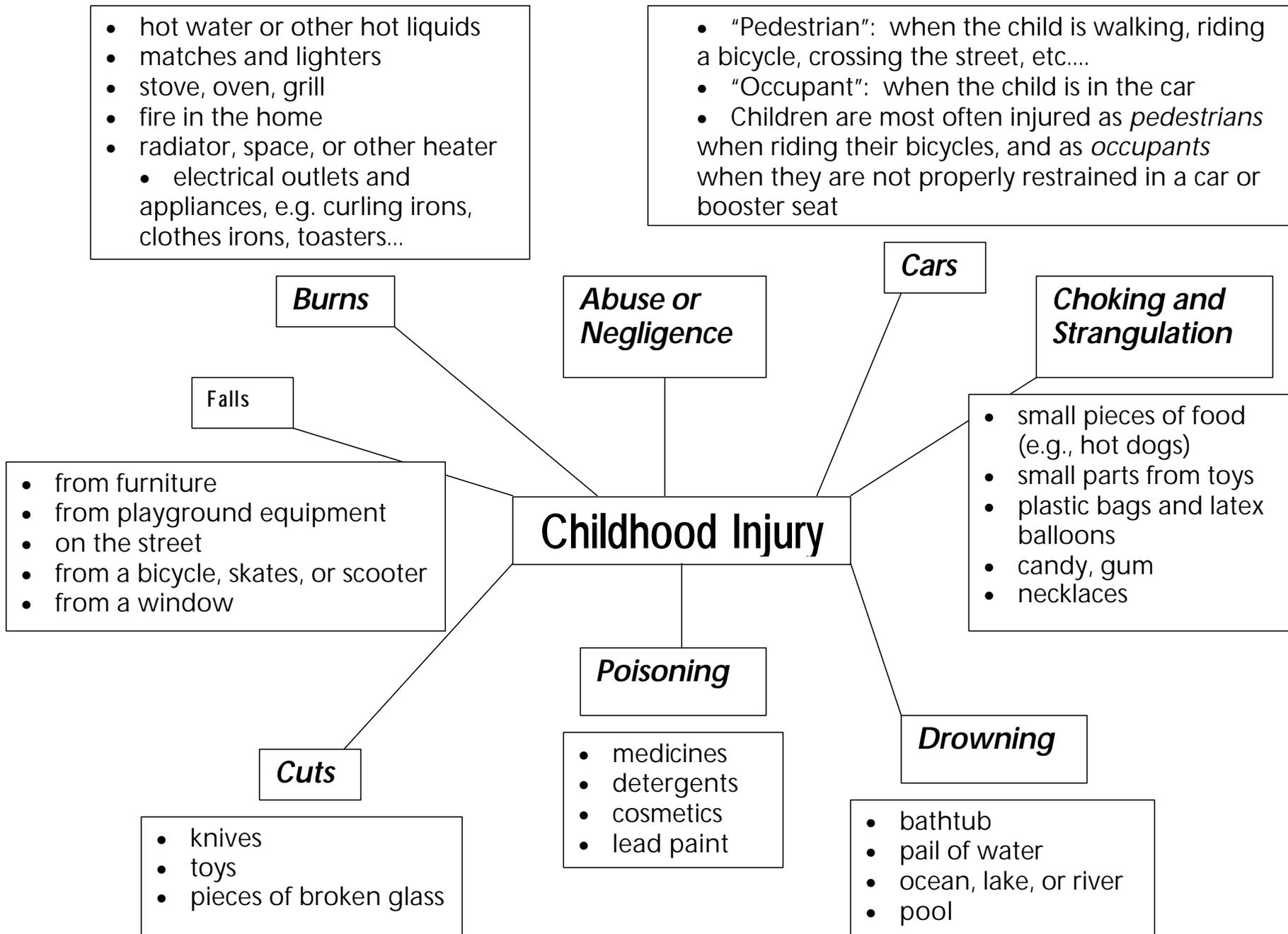


Figure 1: Sample Injury Web

Figure 2: Partial List of Causes of Injuries

Social Causes

- Lack of enforcement / policing issues
- Neglect by city agencies
- Lack of information and education of residents, parents, caregivers
- Economic development (good for parent self-esteem, well-being of family)

Preventable Causes

- Environment (e.g., neglect of public and private areas such as playgrounds; hazards in the home or at school; intersections with no traffic light)
- Behavior (e.g., anger and stress management; discipline strategies; communication skills)
- Tools / equipment (e.g., bike helmet, knee and elbow pads, fire extinguisher, car seat)

Tools / Objects that cause injury

- bikes, skates, scooters, skateboards, baby walkers, other wheel toys
- firearms
- matches, lighters, cigarettes, candles, cooking oil, gasoline, turpentine/ paint thinner
- motor vehicles
- knives, scissors, and other sharp objects
- small pieces, parts, and foods (e.g., wheels from a toy car; grapes or hard candies)
- hot liquids
- peeling or chipped paint
- detergents, cleaning products, beauty products, medicines

Session II: Help Your Child Play It Safe!

⇒ Pass around attendance sheet.

1.) Introduction to the topic: The Magnitude of the Playground Injury Problem

Purpose: Many parents do not believe that playground injuries, or any unintentional injuries, for that matter, can be prevented. They often think that playground maintenance is not a parent's responsibility; neither is general supervision for all of the children playing. But parents must remember—there is no lifeguard at the playground. Children need close supervision, and that includes a clean, well-maintained play space that is under control. This activity will introduce the participants to the range of injuries that occur at the playground and to the ways in which parents are both responsible and capable of preventing these injuries to children.

Action: Introduce the topic for today: Helping your child play it safe. This title refers to safety at the playground. Let the parents know that they will be doing most of the talking, and that you'd like their input in the discussion that the group is about to have. Remind them that there are not really right or wrong answers for every situation at the playground—you are there to share and discuss thoughts, opinions, and experiences.

⇒ Emphasize child development: not all playground equipment is appropriate for all children. Parents need to decide what equipment is safe for their children, and set play limits for the child accordingly.

⇒ Emphasize supervision: though there may be many parents at a playground, there may not be many parents watching the children closely. Many parents use the time at the playground as a social hour for themselves as well as for their children. This can be dangerous, especially when the playground is crowded.

Ask: What kinds of injuries do children get at a playground? In other words, in what ways do children get hurt when they are at the playground?

- Begin the discussion by reminding the group of the answers given during the first session. Write on the board/easel pad the answers that the group came up with during the Session 1 brainstorming that were relevant to playgrounds.
- If the group has difficulty answering, suggest different mechanisms (e.g., falling or cuts), causes (e.g., no guardrail or rust on the slide), and injuries (e.g., broken wrist).
- Write participant's answers down, but limit the time for this activity. They did a similar task with the brainstorming during the last session. This activity is only to introduce the topic and jog their memories back into injury, so the list should be fast, not comprehensive.
- If someone says "accident," ask them to change their wording and remind them why.

Ask: Do you think that playground injuries are a big risk for children in New York City? How often do you think children get hurt at the park? For example, how many children do you think get seriously hurt on a playground in New York City in a given year?

- Try to get a response from most participants, if not all

Action: Present the *Did you know?...* statistics. Either read them aloud yourself or have volunteers read them aloud, one at a time. After each, ask the group, "So, what does this mean? How does this relate to our children?" Allow the participants to ask questions or have brief discussions around the meaning and implications of each statistic. If necessary, explain what the statistic means.

2.) Presentation of SAFE concepts (SEPA in Spanish)

Purpose: To introduce the participants to the "SAFE" method of playground injury prevention for parents. Emphasize the four points of SAFE playground safety: Supervision, Appropriate equipment, Falls prevention, and Equipment maintenance.

Action: **If you plan to use the SAFE Playgrounds video** from National Program for Playground Safety (available for loan from the IVPC) or other appropriate video, play the video for the parents. After, repeat important points that the video made and refer the parents to the SAFE (SEPA) handout, the Playground Safety Checklist, and the Activities to do with your Child pages in their binder materials. Answer any questions they have about the video or the handouts.

In lieu of or in addition to video:

- Refer the parents to the Playground Safety Checklist in their binder materials
 - Have volunteers read each point out loud. Let participants ask questions after each point, and encourage another parent to answer the question before jumping in to answer.
 - Show the parents with a yardstick how tall 30 inches is and how far nine feet is, in reference to the distances given on the Checklist
- Show the group the enclosed pictures of the playground at 173rd Street in New York City.
 - First show them Pictures 1, 2 & 3, that give a broader view of what the whole playground looks like (high, medium, and low areas). Ask them first what they notice that is good about this playground overall. Examples: rubber safety surfacing; variety of equipment (small, medium, and large equipment separated for different age groups); guardrails in high areas; fence marking off playground from other parts of the park; rock wall to block playground from the street; tree cover to shade from the sun on hot days...
 - Show them Picture 5, of the dinosaur apparatus. Ask them to think about whether this piece of equipment is safe. For what age children would this equipment be safe? What is the purpose of the apparatus? What would a child be learning by using it? What are some risks or hazards associated with it?
 - Show the group Pictures 6 and 7 of the swings and ask them the same questions. Good things: swings are very secure; no "big kid" swings (only baby swings) because not enough space; swings separate by fences from other areas of park. Bad things: Chains exposed; metal can get hot on a sunny day, especially dangerous for a baby; chains and hardware can rust (rust is dangerous because it can cut a child); peeling paint can also be a hazard. Explain to them what an "S-Clip" is (a chain link—demonstrate with Picture 7, the swing detail). An exposed S-clip can also be dangerous to a child, especially to a baby: in summer, metal can heat up and burn the child; the shape of the S-clip could also pinch the fingers of a curious child.
 - Now ask them what they would like to change, what some possible dangers are that they see in these pictures. Examples: black metal fence that blocks playground from other parts of the park has pointy pickets; space in between

The enclosed pictures are of the playground at 173rd Street. It would be great, if it's a nice day and the parents were up for it, to actually conduct the session at a playground. Otherwise, these pictures should help.

1. Show the participants the three pictures that give the broader views of what the whole playground looks like (high, medium, and low parts). Ask them first what they notice that is good about this playground overall. Examples: rubber safety surfacing; variety of equipment (small, medium, and large equipment separated for different age groups); guardrails in high areas; fence marking off playground from other parts of the park; rock wall to block playground from the street; tree cover to shade from the sun on hot days...
2. Now ask them what they would like to change, what some possible dangers are that they see in these pictures. Examples: black metal fence that blocks playground from other parts of the park has pointy pickets; space in between bars on fence and guardrails might not be wide enough to prevent a child from getting his/her head stuck; metal slide can burn children in the summer; lots of leaves falling on ground can be slippery; wood floors can cause splinters...
3. Show the group the pictures of the swings and ask them the same questions. Good things: swings are very secure; no "big kid" swings (only baby swings) because not enough space; swings separate by fences from other areas of park. Bad things: Chains exposed; metal can get hot on a sunny day, especially dangerous for a baby; chains and hardware can rust (rust [moho] is dangerous because it can cut a child and the child will likely need to get a tetanus shot); peeling paint can also be a hazard. Explain to them what an "S-Clip" is (a chain link—demonstrate with the picture provided).
4. Ask the participants to go through the playground safety checklist and see if they have missed anything in the pictures. Then ask them, what might be a hazard that you can't see in the picture? For example: the pictures do not show the entrance to the playground. The entrance to the playground might be very safe or very unsafe, depending on what it looks like, and parents should pay attention as they walk into the playground. They

Facilitator's Guide insert: playground pictures

should also look for and locate the other entrances or exits to see if they are safe. In this particular example, there is no gate to the playground on the corner of 174 and Ft.

Washington—any child could run right into the street. Children wandering into the areas behind the playground may also be dangerous—although it is good for them to have ample space to play ball games and run around, there is nothing dividing the grassy area from the hard, sharp rocks behind the grass. These rocks are steep, slippery, and hard, and a child who falls on them or from them could be seriously hurt. The rocks are visible in the background of one of the photographs.

bars on fence and guardrails might not be wide enough to prevent a child from getting his/her head stuck; metal slide can burn children in the summer; lots of leaves falling on ground can be slippery; wood floors can cause splinters... Ask them to give suggestions about what could be done to make each hazard safer.

- Ask the participants to go through the playground safety checklist and see if they have missed anything in the pictures. Then ask them, what might be a hazard that you can't see in the picture? For example: the pictures do not show the entrance to the playground. The entrance to the playground might be very safe or very unsafe, depending on what it looks like, and parents should pay attention as they walk into the playground. They should also look for and locate the other entrances or exits to see if they are safe. In this particular example, there is no gate to the playground on the corner of 174th Street and Ft. Washington Avenue —any child could run right into the street. Children wandering into the areas behind the playground may also be dangerous—although it is good for them to have ample space to play ball games and run around, there is nothing dividing the grassy area from the rocks behind the grass. These rocks are steep, slippery, and hard, and a child who falls on them or from them could be seriously hurt. The rocks are slightly visible in the backgrounds of Pictures 5 & 6.
- Refer them to the SAFE (SEPA) handout in their binder materials.
 - Invite volunteers to read out loud the points under each letter (one volunteer per letter)
 - After each letter is read, ask the group if they have any questions. Help them brainstorm ways they can follow the recommendations on the handout.

3.) Small group activity

⇒ **Distribute Small Group Worksheet for *Play It Safe!***

Purpose: This small group activity will allow the parents to work together to devise strategies for setting limits for their children at the playground. They will have the opportunity to share their experiences and ideas for enforcing the rules for their children.

Action: Refer the participants to the Play It Safe! handout in their binders. Break the large group into groups of 3-4 participants. Assign each small group a playground area (e.g., slide, climber, or swings)—there can be more than one group working on a single area, if the whole group is large. Acknowledge that setting rules and enforcing them at the playground is particularly difficult because there are so many children following different rules. Ask the parents to work as a group to decide what the most important dangers to a child are at the area they were assigned, and to come up with 3 rules to set for their children at that area that address those concerns, and to describe what methods they would use to enforce the rules they made. Help the groups set realistic, productive strategies, rather than just saying “I will tell him to, and he will listen.” Remind the parents that setting rules and getting children to obey them are difficult tasks for all parents. Even though it is difficult, parents must set limits and enforce them consistently for their children's safety. Developmentally, children need a few logical, consistent rules that are always enforced to help them learn to associate cause and effect, which will, in turn, help them learn to obey the rules, rather than many rules that do not use obvious logic and that are impossible or more difficult to enforce. Setting limits and enforcing them gently but consistently will help a child learn to follow a routine, to trust the parent, and to understand that actions have consequences. It is a useful overall discipline strategy that is not just good at the playground, but to give structure to the child's life.

Give the groups around 7 minutes to discuss rules to set at the playground for their children and ways to enforce the rules. After 7 minutes on task, ask the groups to come back together as a whole and have a spokesperson from each smaller group share the group's strategies with everyone else. Ask other participants to comment constructively or ask questions of the group that is presenting. Respond to their ideas, particularly reinforcing positive strategies and asking them to think a little more about the consequences of the negative ones. Try to minimize negative or pessimistic comments from the larger group and limit the amount of time that each group's strategies are discussed.

⇒ Bring up the possibility (as listed in the binder handout Activities To Do With Your Child) of how to start a Playground Watch Group in the neighborhood, where each parent would agree to set the same rules for their children to make the playground safer and make it easier for the parents to convince their children to follow the rules. Do they think this is feasible? Would it work? How would they go about organizing it? Would they hand out fliers about it? Approach the mothers playing with their children in the park? Have meetings?

4.) Practice

Purpose: Once the parents have devised these strategies, they need to feel like they are capable of implementing them in real life (the concept of "self-efficacy"). To show them that they have developed feasible strategies that they will indeed be effective at putting them into action, they need the opportunity to practice before trying the strategies out on their own children.

Action: Explain that you will read a situation, and would like a volunteer to act out her reaction. If you were the parent in this situation, what would you do? The list of situations can be found in the binder materials, if parents would like to make notes. Ask for a volunteer to react to situation number one. Ask her to talk to you as though she were speaking to her child directly. What would she say? Read each situation out loud and let her react. Reinforce positive responses. Remind the group of the principles of SAFE (SEPA) and of the rules-setting strategies they worked out. Ask if other members of the group would have reacted differently.

⇒ Emphasize consistency over time: The child is not going to adjust to new rules overnight, especially at the playground where there are so many children who seem like they are not following *any* rules. It is likely that the child will not obey the rules the first time the parent sets them, or *even* the **fifth** time! But consistency over time will convince the child—children *do* eventually adjust, as long as they know what to expect each time they go to the playground.

⇒ There should be *positive consequences* to obeying the new limits. For example, you can say that the child has one hour to play. If he or she plays well and obeys the limits you set, you can offer a prize for good behavior, such as an extra half-hour of play time. If the child does not obey the limits, you will go home after the original one hour time limit. Positive reinforcement—that is, rewards for good behavior—has been shown to be more effective for child discipline than only negative reinforcement—or punishment for bad behavior. This is not to say that bad behavior should be ignored, only that in addition, a child should benefit from behaving well.

Variations: Could be done as a role play; Could be done as an introduction to the small group activity to develop rules and enforcement strategies.

5.) Closing/Wrap-up

Answer any questions the participants still have. Refer them to the Resources list and Activities You Can Do With Your Child sections of the binder. Mention that the topic for the next session will be Bicycle and Wheel Safety. Ask the participants to briefly fill out the evaluation sheet found at the end of their materials. Remind them that the evaluation is completely anonymous, but important so we can make the workshops better for next time. Answer any questions they may have about the form. Collect both the evaluations and the attendance sheet.

Timing Guide for Injury Prevention Session II

Activity	Materials	Time Allotted
Introduction	Board and Chalk/Markers	15 minutes
SAFE/SEPA Activity	Video or SAFE handout and playground safety checklist; playground pictures	25 minutes
Small Group Activity	Play It Safe! Handout	20 minutes
Practice	List of situations	20 minutes
Closing	Resources list, Evaluation	10 minutes
Total Time		1 hr., 30 min.

***Injury and Violence Prevention Center
Injury Prevention Parent Workshop Series***

***Serie de Talleres:
La Prevención de Lesiones en los Niños***

**Play It Safe!
¡Jueguen Seguros!**

Small Group Worksheet

Strategies for setting rules at the playground...
Estrategias para poner limites en el parque de juego...

1. _____

2. _____

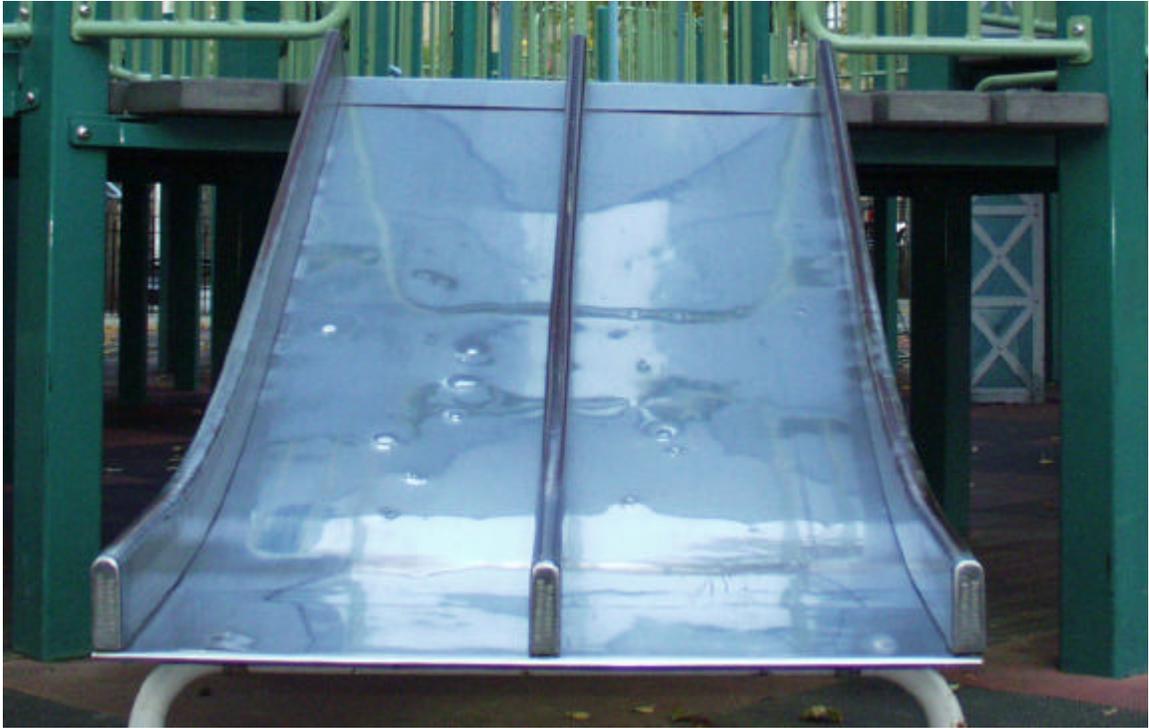
3. _____

4. _____

5. _____









Session III: Watch It On Wheels!

⇒ Pass around attendance sheet.

1.) Introduction

Purpose: To introduce the current topic of bicycle and wheel safety. Both last session's topic and this session's topic are part of a larger concept, outdoor safety. Outdoor safety includes a variety of safety issues and injuries, including swimming injuries in pools or in the ocean, pedestrian injuries as children travel around the streets, playground safety, and bicycle or wheel safety. Today we are going to focus mainly on safety on wheels, meaning safety on bicycles, tricycles, scooters, skateboards, skates, and any other "toy" that children use that has wheels. We will also touch on pedestrian safety as it relates to children on wheels, but really save that topic for another day.

Action:

Ask: Raise your hand if you have a child who owns bicycle, tricycle, scooter, skateboard, roller blades, or sneaker skates. (Count)

Ask: Raise your hand if you have a child who owns a helmet. (Count)

Ask: Raise your hand if you have a child who wears a helmet every single time he or she rides a bicycle, scooter, etc... (Count)

NOTE: If few children "own" any of these toys, ask them "own," then ask, "What about riding them? How many of you have a child who rides a bicycle, tricycle, scooter, skateboard, or skates at least once a week, even if it actually belongs to their brother or a neighbor?" Write numbers on board for all to see. Point out that even though it is common for children to ride wheel toys, very few wear a helmet every time. Review the *Did you know...* statistics from the binder materials. Ask for volunteers to read them out loud. Discuss each one briefly, asking someone from the group to explain what it means for children in Washington Heights. Answer any questions the group may have about the statistics, and explain them if no one in the group can.

2.) Game: Myth or Reality?

Purpose: To continue to discuss facts related to bicycle and other wheel safety.

Action: Divide the group into two teams; the winning team will receive small prizes. Locate the *Myth or Reality?* game list in the binder. The participants can follow along in their own binders. Ask each question out loud. Teams will alternate to answer the questions. The first team must say whether the statement is a myth or a reality *and give an explanation*; if they are incorrect, ask the other team to try to explain why the answer is not correct. Follow the explanations for each item found in the Facilitator's Guide. Award one point per correct answer (no points are awarded for a correct explanation after a wrong answer because there are only two answer options, so the answer is obvious once the first team gets it wrong). The team with the most points at the end of the game wins. There are fifteen statements. If necessary, the game may be shortened.

3.) Demonstration

Purpose: To help parents answer the question: What can we, as parents, do to help our children be safe on wheels? To familiarize parents with wheel safety-related devices and let them practice using them properly.

Action: Locate the Home Wheels Maintenance Checklist in the session materials and call it to the attention of the participants. Referring to the Checklist and an example bike, demonstrate bicycle sizing and maintenance. You need only to go over the bicycle list, but should point out that there are lists for inline skates, skateboards, and scooters as well. Stress that bicycle maintenance, like playground equipment maintenance, is essential for safety. A bike that is ridden often should be checked at least once per week.

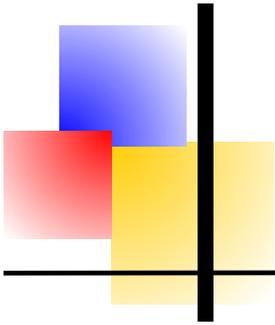
Next, demonstrate helmet sizing. Show the child's helmet and size a volunteer using an adult helmet so they can see how a helmet is supposed to fit. Emphasize that helmets should not be shared or bought to be "grown-into"—helmets should fit snugly from the moment they are bought or they will not protect the child from severe head injury. Once a helmet is cracked, for example, after a crash, it must be replaced.

A useful analogy to illustrate the importance of a helmet to the parents is that a helmet is like a bike rider's "uniform"—a baseball player uses a batting helmet, a bike rider uses a bike helmet. A batter never bats without his helmet; a child should never ride without his or hers. It is part of the game. Demonstrate the other safety gear; explain how and why it is used. Point out the drawing of the proper hand signals at the bottom of the *Activities You Can Do With Your Child* page in the binder materials; show parents the signals and let them practice them a few times as a group. Note: hand signals should be performed with the left hand.

Alternative: A game modeled on "Simon Says" could be used to allow parents to practice the hand signals, and can be suggested to parents as a fun way to teach their children to use the signals as well.

Talk to the parents about these other tips for safety:

- Emphasize supervision, particularly for children under 10.
- Talk about child development: To ride a bicycle, a child must have excellent balance, hand-eye coordination, control of movement, and street-crossing skills. Most children are not developmentally ready to use all of these skills at the same time until they are at least 10.
- No riding on bumpy, wet, or rocky surfaces.
- Encourage them to have their children wear light-colored and/or reflective clothing or to put reflective patches on their helmets—this increases visibility even during the day. For example, many sneakers now have reflective material on them for decoration and safety. If possible, show examples of reflective material—backpacks, sneakers, clothing, etc.—and reflectors that can be attached to a bicycle.
- Encourage them not to let their children ride at night.
- Ask parents to name characteristics of a space that is a good place for a child to ride his or her bicycle (e.g., spacious; flat, clean, paved surface; safe; well-lighted; closed to car traffic). Encourage them to take the child to the park to ride instead of on the street or sidewalk—ask them to name some parks in the area that are good for bike riding. (e.g., Ft. Tryon, Edgcombe). Parks are usually safer places to ride because they are closed to cars and are in general more child-friendly than other public areas.



Injury and Violence Prevention Center

Myth Or Reality?

Session 3: Watch It On Wheels

For each of the following statements, please decide if it is a *MYTH* or a *REALITY*.

1. Carrying a passenger (“double riding”) on a bicycle is safe, as long as the passenger weighs less than the driver.
Myth:
? This is dangerous when the passenger is carried on the handlebars, on pegs on the back wheel, or on the cross bar in front of the driver, no matter how much each child weighs.
2. A child should never wear sandals or go barefoot when riding a bicycle, tricycle, scooter, skateboard, or skates.
Reality:
? It is always dangerous, both for control and for preventing cuts and scrapes on the child’s foot.
3. Helmets only protect children from bicycle crashes, not scooter, skateboard, or skate crashes.
Myth:
? “Bicycle” helmets are for bicycle-riding, but “multi-sport” helmets can protect a child’s head from a crash from any of these vehicles, and should be worn. Check that the helmet is certified by Snell or Ansi standards— the tag on the helmet should say so.
4. A helmet is only necessary if a child is riding in the street.
Myth:
? Helmets protect children from a crash anywhere, no matter where they are riding. Children are at- risk for a crash as soon as they get on their bike, and should fasten their helmet before setting off. A helmet can reduce the risk of injury in a crash by as much as 85%.
5. Children should ride facing traffic.
Myth:
? Children should always ride single file in the same direction as traffic, and should follow traffic rules as though they were driving a car. Riding facing traffic can confuse or surprise drivers.
6. Scooters are only appropriate for older children.
Reality:
? Scooters are **ONLY** appropriate for **OLDER CHILDREN**. Preschoolers especially are too small to control the scooter, and too short to be seen by drivers. Scooters are extremely dangerous toys for young children.



7. It is ok for a child to ride after dark.

Myth:

? It is NEVER ok for a child to ride after dark! Children are small and difficult to see. They also have unpredictable behavior that puts them at great risk of being hit by a car, whether they are on wheels or walking. Children, especially at night and when the weather is bad (gray, raining, snowing, etc.), should wear light colored clothing. Reflective tape, patches, and other items can be put on clothing to increase the chance that drivers of cars will see your child, and are recommended for use by children young and old, at night and even in the daytime.

8. Children on tricycles don't need to wear helmets.

Myth:

? Even little ones on tricycles need helmets! They can fall off or get in crashes too and injure their heads. It is also good to start a child young— let him/her get used to wearing a helmet and make it a habit. Then, it will be easier to get the child to wear a helmet when s/he graduates to a bigger bike.

9. A helmet is the only protective gear worth buying.

Myth:

? Especially for children riding scooters, skateboards, or skates, elbow, knee, and wrist pads are important also. A helmet is essential, but the other gear is certainly worth buying. In fact, according to the CPSC, the most common inline skate injuries are wrist injuries, and at least 1/3 of inline skate injuries that require at least Emergency Room treatment could be lessened in severity or avoided altogether with the use of wrist guards. Light-colored and reflective clothing can also be considered protective gear, and increases the chance that a driver will see child from far away.



10. New York State Law mandates that children 14 and under wear sport helmets when riding bicycles, skateboards, and skates.

Reality:

? New York State Law does mandate helmet use for all three sports for children aged 14 and under. Some helmets are only appropriate for bicycles, so when buying a helmet for other sports, check to see if it is Snell or ANSI certified for that particular sport as well.

11. When buying a bicycle or protective gear for a child, it is best to buy it a little big so that the child can grow into it.

Myth:

? Bicycles are unsafe if they are too big for the child. A bike should fit a child well so that s/he can manage it easily and build skills and confidence. Helmets and other safety gear do not protect a child from injury if they do not fit properly. Equipment, like a bicycle, should be the right size for the child at the time it is purchased so that it will be comfortable (the child will be more likely to wear it) and offer the protection the child needs.

12. An eight-year old is old enough to ride without an adult, as long as s/he is with a group of friends.

Myth:

? To be able to ride without supervision, a child has have excellent balance, and be able to steer, brake, and use hand signals well. Most children do not have these skills until they are at least 10 years old, and should not ride unsupervised before that age. Sending younger children in groups is also dangerous. Children are more easily distracted and crossing intersections becomes more dangerous as children follow-the-leader instead of following the rules of the road themselves.



13. It is important for a child to know hand signals, as well as the meanings of traffic signs and signals, before being allowed to ride on the sidewalk and the street.

Reality:

? People on bicycles, skates, and skateboards should always ride with traffic, as close to the sidewalk as possible, and follow all traffic rules as though they were driving a car. Hand signals help other riders and drivers of cars see the rider and know what s/he plans to do next, and they are a necessary courtesy and safety precaution. All riders should know the hand signals, and be able to balance on their bicycles well enough to use them, before they venture out to ride on the sidewalk or in the street. Because all riders are required by law to obey traffic rules, they should know what traffic signs and signals mean if they will be riding in the street. In addition, it helps children to be able to cross the street safely when they are walking or riding if they understand traffic signals and therefore can see what the cars will be doing next. Walk with your child around the neighborhood. When you get to a corner, explain the traffic signals and signs and what they mean, for both you as pedestrians and for the cars that are passing by. Have your child practice the hand signals to show where you will be walking next. That knowledge, combined with great balance and equipment that fits, will make your child a better, safer rider.

14. Regular equipment maintenance can make riding a bike, scooter, skateboard, or skates safer.

Reality:

? Any wheels— bicycles, tricycles, scooters, skateboards, or skates— need regular maintenance to keep them working the way they were designed to work. Each kind of equipment, including protective gear, has its own requirements for regular maintenance. Some need to be inspected weekly, while other equipment should be cleaned after every ride. See the home maintenance checklist to find out what general maintenance guidelines are for your wheels.

15. A low-slung, big-wheels style tricycle is safer for young children because it is less likely a child will fall off.

Myth:

? Lower tricycles are can be even more dangerous than a regular tricycle. A child is so low to the ground on a big-wheels style tricycle that s/he is almost impossible to see from a car and is at much greater risk of being hit. As with any bicycle, children should wear a helmet when they ride a tricycle, should ride singly (that is, only one child on the tricycle at a time), and should not ride the tricycle near or into the street.



Review other important points from the *Myth or Reality?* game and answer any questions the parents may have about topics that have come up so far.

4.) Small Group Activity

⇒ **Distribute Small Group Activity Worksheet for Helmet Safety.**

Purpose: For this activity, small groups of parents will work together to discuss different strategies for encouraging their children to wear a helmet and follow the other bicycle/wheel safety rules discussed. They will also discuss ways to enforce new rules they will set for their children.

Action: Divide the group into smaller groups of 3-4 participants. Ask them to devise at least 3 strategies for getting their children to wear a helmet and to follow the other wheel safety rules. Help the groups be realistic—ask them to think beyond just “I will tell him to do it, and he has to because I am his mother.” Remind them that all parents have difficulty getting their children to obey rules, particularly new ones, and that they are working in groups to support and help each other think of realistic ways of convincing children to obey. Give the group 10 minutes to complete their list of strategies.

After 10 minutes, bring the whole group back together. Have a spokesperson for each group share the list the group came up with, and explain how they would enforce each strategy. Allow other groups to comment constructively or ask questions. Reinforce positive strategies; ask parents to think about the consequences of negative ones.

5.) Wrap-up

Purpose: To help the parents put all of the information from the session together.

Action: Have the parents look at the materials in the binder, particularly the Resources page, the Activities You Can Do With Your Child, the Head Smart pages the children can color, and the Wheel Safety Pledge. Go over what parents should do at home: read the brochure for helmet fitting and the Bike Maintenance Checklist, talking to the child and supervising him/her, decorating the helmet, Parents should review the information with the child and supervise him/her. The parent can encourage the child to decorate his/her helmet, color the Wheel Safety Pledge; and learn traffic signs and traffic rules. Ask the participants to briefly fill out and hand in the evaluation sheet at the back of their binder materials. Remind them that the evaluation page is anonymous. Answer any questions they have about the form. Collect the evaluation and the attendance sheet.

Timing Guide for Injury Prevention Session III

Activity	Materials	Time Allotted
Introduction	Board and Chalk, Did you know?... sheet	15 minutes

Game	Game List in materials, prizes	15 minutes
Demonstration	Helmets, safety gear, bicycle	20 minutes
Small Groups	Paper	10 minutes
Wrap-up	Resource list, Evaluation	10 minutes
Total Time		1 hr., 10 mins.

***Injury and Violence Prevention Center
Injury Prevention Parent Workshop Series***

***Serie de Talleres:
La Prevención de Lesiones a los Niños***

Watch It On Wheels...

Cuidado con las Ruedas...

Small Group Worksheet

Strategies to encourage your child to wear a bicycle safety helmet...
Estrategias para animar a su hijo a ponerse el casco protector...

1. _____

 2. _____

 3. _____

 4. _____

 5. _____

-

Session IV: Safety On the Road

⇒ Pass around the attendance sheet.

1.) Introduction

Purpose: To introduce participants to the topic of traffic safety.

Action: Go through the *Did You Know...* page. Ask for volunteers to read them out loud. Discuss each one briefly, asking someone from the group to explain what it means for children in Washington Heights. Answer any questions the group may have about the statistics, and explain them if no one in the group can.

2.) Felt Board Activity

Purpose: To demonstrate to the participants what happens physically to passengers in different car crash situations.

Action: Using a felt board and pieces, simulate what happens to a preschool child in different positions during a car crash. Ask a volunteer to move the pieces. Tell the parents the situation, and ask them to predict what happens.

- Motor vehicle crash, with a child in the front seat
- Motor vehicle crash, with a child in the back seat
- Pedestrian injury—a child is walking across a wide main street and the light changes.
- Pedestrian injury—a child is riding a scooter across a side street.
- Pedestrian injury: it is a hot summer day and the children on the block are playing in the stream of an open fire hydrant.

After each situation, discuss with the group the relevant safety points:

- What sort of restraint system should the child have been in, if any?
- What were some traffic signs or other environmental cues that might have given clues for safety?
- What are the properties and characteristics of the cars that contributed to the injury?
- What supervision, if any, was necessary to avoid the injury?
- What characteristics of the children involved made them more prone to be injured in the situation? (e.g. children have trouble judging speed and distance; slow reaction times; little peripheral vision; they believe that if they see a person, that person also sees them)
- Reinforce information from prior sessions (e.g., the importance of protective gear such as a helmet, supervision, stage of child development, appropriateness of activity) Particular points:
 - *Child restraint:* children should not sit in the front seat of a car until they are at least 12 years old. Children should ride in booster seats until they are at least 8 years old, 4'9", and 80 lbs. A car seat should be used until the child reaches 40 lbs.

- o *Environment*: extra care, caution, and supervision is needed when a child crosses a wide avenue. Children walk slowly, and they are not very visible to cars because of their height. If children feel rushed to make it across the street, they may run out in front of a car when the driver cannot see them or make another poor decision about crossing. So, many times finding an alternate routes may be the most effective injury prevention. Also, parent organizing can help advocate for longer lights at an intersection or other environmental changes by the government to make an intersection safer for children.
- o *Activity appropriateness and child development*:
 - Children should not ride bikes without close supervision *by an adult* until they are at least 10 years old. An older sibling or teenager can ride alone, but are often not able to supervise a young child adequately, and it may not be fair to the teen to expect him/her to do so. Adolescents are, in fact, still developing their own judgment abilities. It is therefore recommended that adults, rather than other children or teens, be charged with supervising children.
 - Preschoolers should not ride scooters or skateboards—they do not have the strength to control them, and their height makes them less visible than older children on these particular toys. Even if a driver can see the child, he/she may not realize how fast the child is moving because the child is on wheels. It may appear that the child is walking.
- o *Visibility*: Children have poor peripheral vision, and they believe that if they see another person, that person also sees them. This perception can put them in great danger.
- *Alternative* (if available): Use I Read Signs book to show parents the different traffic signs and make sure the parent knows what each means, and how to explain what it means to the child. Also remind parents of the hand signals from the previous session (bike riding), and associate the different hand signals with the road signs.

3.) Lecturette: Car Seats

Purpose: To inform parents about the importance of child passenger restraints, and to help them choose the proper restraint for the ages and weights of their children.

Action: Introduce the topic by referring to the Car Seat Comparison Chart in the binder. Go over the chart with the parents, then ask them to identify the seat that is appropriate for their children. Ask two or three volunteers to say aloud which seat is right for her child and why.

- ⇒ Ask the parents, what are the barriers to using a car seat? Why don't parents in Washington Heights and Inwood usually put their children in car seats? Acknowledge their responses and talk about the different situations parents have found themselves in related to car and/or booster seat use.
- If parents say that they do not use car seats because they don't have a car, ask about taxis. Do taxis have accidents, too, or only people in their own cars? Are children (and other passengers) at risk when they are in a taxi? What are the unique barriers to using a car seat in a taxi? Whose responsibility is it to provide the car seat? There are no right or wrong answers in this discussion. However, remind parents that their children, when unrestrained, are at risk in any car traveling for any distance at any speed. Inconvenience is minimal when compared to the crippling or death of a child.

- Please refer to *Figure 3, Possible reasons not to use a car seat*, and see how your group's answers compare to other groups. Remind the parents that they are not alone in feeling the barriers to car seat use, but that they can change to make their children safer.

⇒ Next, demonstrate car seat and booster seat use with the models. As you demonstrate, ask the parents why, especially in light of the felt board activity, it is important to use car seats and booster seats.

- Encourage seat use in cabs and other people's cars, even if the participants do not drive or have a car of their own.
- Also, encourage parents to practice putting their seats in correctly and to read the instruction manual. 85% of car seats are installed incorrectly, so even though they are being used, they may not fully protect the child from injury. Show parents the One Minute Safety Seat Checklist—using this tool included in their packet, they can check in one minute if the seat is installed properly or not. Encourage the parents to tape the section of the Checklist that is applicable to their children to the back of the safety seat so that they will always have it when they are strapping in their baby.
- Remind parents that the safest seat in the car is in the middle of the back seat, because the whole front of the car can absorb the energy of the crash before reaching the passenger, and there is no seat in the middle that may move backwards and crush the passenger. This is the safest position for a car seat, a booster seat, and a child older than 8 years who may sit, belted, in the back seat without a safety seat.
- Booster seats are necessary because children under age 8 and shorter than 4'9" do not have the height and weight they need for a seat belt to fit properly. The belt will sit too high across the child's neck and stomach, which can cause internal damage and death in a crash. A booster seat gives the child the added height he/she needs to have the regular seat belt for the car lay across the child's body in the right position.

4.) Role Play Activity: What Would You Do?

Purpose: To allow parents the opportunity to develop strategies for talking to their children about traffic safety and for setting and enforcing traffic safety-related rules.

Action: Refer the group to the "What Would You Do?" page of the session's materials. Ask for volunteers to act out each of the given situations. Read the situation out loud, then ask the participants to respond to the questions posed. Have one volunteer be the parent and one be the child. Tell the "child" to think about how an actual child of that age would respond and to try to act that out. Have the "parent" respond to the child. Then, let the group discuss constructive suggestions about things they might add or do differently, or questions they have for the actors.

Reinforce positive responses. Answer any questions.

⇒ After the role play, mention any important points that were not brought up during the discussion. Emphasize the importance of *constructive teaching* and guidance, setting examples for children, supervision, and POSITIVE reinforcement of good behavior. Remind

the group that antagonistic methods of intervention are usually not effective—for example, don't try to scare the child into acting safely.

⇒ Teach the group to “Stop, Look, and Listen--” Stop at the corner, Look left, then right, then left again to check from oncoming cars, then Listen for cars that they might not have seen-- at each intersection. Remind the group about the importance of wearing safety gear and using a child passenger restraint even for short, supervised trips—you never know who else is on the road with your child. Finally, remind them of last session's activity of setting strategies and limits for the child about bike riding—these same techniques will be useful for teaching the child to cross the street, and the rules from today's lesson apply whether the child is walking or riding.

5.) Closing

Go through the rest of the materials with the parents, including the resources and activities pages. Explain the One-Minute Safety Seat Checklist and the Walkability Checklist, and encourage parents to use these materials and do these activities with their children.

Alternative: Ask them to do the Walkability Checklist as they walk with their child home from school today, and to share the answers in the group during the next session.

⇒ Ask the participants to fill out and hand in the evaluation sheet at the back of their binder materials. Remind them that the evaluation page is anonymous. Answer any questions they have about the form. Collect the evaluation and the attendance sheet.

Timing Chart for Injury Prevention Session IV

Activity	Materials	Time Allotted
Did You Know	Did You Know?... sheet	5 minutes
Felt Board Activity	Felt Board and pieces	20 minutes
Lecturette	Booster seat, car seat for demonstration	15 minutes
Role Plays		30 minutes
Closing	Resource list, Evaluation	5 minutes
Total Time		1 hr., 15 min.

Figure 3: Common reasons some parents give for not using a car seat

- The car seat doesn't work with the seat belt that the car has.
- The car seat is too complicated to put in.
- The taxi driver should provide the seat—it's not my responsibility because it is not my car.
- It's inconvenient—to use a car seat in a taxi, you have to walk around for the rest of the day carrying the big, heavy car seat.
- A car seat doesn't leave enough room for the rest of the passengers in the car.
- We are only going a short distance, and in the taxi, we sit in the back seat.

Session V: Poisons, Fires, and Burns

⇒ Pass around the attendance sheet.

1.) Introduction

Purpose: Today's topic is the first half of what will be discussed in the last two injury prevention sessions: home safety. In each room of the home, there is at least one thing that poses a risk to the safety of a young child. But, as was discussed during the first four sessions, there are some simple things that parents and other caregivers can do to reduce those risks to children and make the home a safer place for the whole family. This session covers poisoning prevention, fire safety, and burns.

Action: Give participants a brief verbal overview of the session based on the information above.

2.) Did You Know?...

- Go through the *Did You Know...* page. Ask for volunteers to read each statistic out loud. Discuss each one briefly, asking someone from the group to explain what it means for children in Washington Heights. Answer any questions the group may have about the statistics, and explain them if no one in the group can.

3.) Brainstorm

Purpose: To get participants thinking about common household hazards in each room of the house. To prepare the group for the small group activity to develop strategies for preventing such hazards in a particular room.

Action:

- ⇒ Make a chart with large blank squares for each room: living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, bedroom (use easel board, dry erase board, or chalkboard)
- ⇒ Say: "Let's try to think about common things that are in our homes that could start a fire. Name something and tell me what room that's in." If necessary, prompt the group to start talking by suggesting: cigarettes, matches, stove, etc.,...
- ⇒ Prompt by asking about ages and relating each hazard to an age or to a developmental stage—If this is a risk for a three year old, is it still a risk when the child is 7?
- ⇒ Now ask about poisons and keep filling in the chart: "Let's try to think about common things that are in our homes that could poison a child. Name something and tell me what room that's in." If necessary, prompt the group to start talking by suggesting: bleach, floor cleaner, perfume, etc.,...
- ⇒ Again prompt by asking about ages and relating each hazard to an age or to a developmental stage—If this is a risk for a three year old, is it still a risk when the child is 7?
- ⇒ Be sure to include carbon monoxide poisoning, lead poisoning, smoke inhalation (in case of a fire), cigarettes, cooking oil, hot water, candles, matches, etc... Please see *Figure 4, Burn/Fire and Poisoning Hazards in the Home* for a more comprehensive list of examples.

4.) Small Groups

⇒ **Distribute Small Group Activity Worksheet: *Safe at Home I*.**

Purpose: The participants will work together and share their techniques and experiences as parents to develop strategies to prevent injuries from common household items.

Action:

- ⇒ Divide participants into 5 groups and assign each group a room in the house: bathroom, kitchen, living room, dining room, bedroom. For each risk that the larger group has listed on the chart for that room, ask the smaller group to think of one way to reduce or eliminate that risk for a child in the home. Allow the small groups ten (10) minutes on task.
- ⇒ After 10 minutes, bring the whole group back together and have a spokesperson for each small group report the group's ideas back to the larger group. Allow participants to comment constructively, make suggestions, or ask questions.
- ⇒ Go over other strategies that might not have been mentioned, esp. ways to put out a fire other than fire extinguisher (e.g., baking soda or covering it to deprive it of oxygen) and that it is a law that water heaters/boilers in apartment buildings not be set above 120°F to prevent burns to small children and the elderly.
- ⇒ Refer participants to the Risk/Prevention List in their session materials. This list shows many common household hazards, and demonstrates that for most of these hazards, there are just a few simple solutions. It also shows that one solution can prevent many risks (e.g., cabinet locks can prevent many kinds of poisoning from occurring, as well as preventing fires by keeping matches away from children).
- ⇒ Encourage parents to go through the list at home and make sure that the items on the list are appropriately secured out of reach of children.

5.) Demonstration

Purpose: To familiarize participants with several home safety products that can be easily purchased in the neighborhood.

Action: Demonstrate battery insertion, testing, and use of a smoke detector and a carbon monoxide detector; the use and storage of a fire extinguisher (e.g., it needs to be easily accessible to be useful); use of cabinet locks, spout cover, and bath thermometer. Remind participants to change the batteries in the detectors twice a year. Suggest that they do it annually on their birthday—so they always know how long it has been since they last changed the batteries.

6.) Lecturette: The Importance of an Escape Plan

Purpose: An escape plan can be instrumental in helping a family, particularly children, out of a house or apartment in the case of a fire in the home. The development and practice of an escape plan can make children and adults more familiar with what to do in case of a fire emergency, and can prepare them to leave the home quickly, calmly, and safely if a fire does occur.

Action: First, discuss the importance of having an escape plan and how to make one up for your family. An escape plan shows a floor layout of the apartment or house, and notes two

exits from each room in case of a fire in different locations in the house. Each room will show an exit through the normal door, then an alternative exit through a window or fire escape. For rooms with no fire escape, a window ladder may be useful. Emphasize the benefits of involving the whole family and practicing the escape plan, and the following important points:

- ⇒ Teach your children (and your babysitter) what to do if there is a fire. When an adult is injured in the fire or if no adult is present-- if the children are with an older sibling or a babysitter-- the escape plan can help children know what to do automatically, whether an adult is present or not. In the case of an injured adult, the children should leave the building as planned and tell a firefighter or another adult outside where the injured person is located.
- ⇒ ALWAYS leave the burning building before calling 9-1-1
- ⇒ Have a set meeting place away from the burning building where you and your children can meet up if you get separated during the evacuation or if you are not home during the emergency. This way, they will know where to find you and you will know where to look for them.
- ⇒ Refer to the escape plan worksheet. Encourage participants to use the worksheet to create an escape plan from their own home, to have their children decorate it, and to post it in a visible place. Encourage the participants to explain the escape plan they develop to both their children and any other caregivers for the kids, and to practice it on a regular basis. Suggest that they let their children color the "Junior Fire Marshal Certificate" when they have learned and practiced the escape plan.

7.) Work in Pairs

Purpose: As participants work in pairs, they will practice developing an escape plan for their own homes and can help each other work out the details of the plan.

Action: Divide the participants into pairs. Instruct them to go through the Escape Plan Checklist in their binder and write out a step-by-step escape plan for one room in their homes. They can use this as a starting point for an escape plan for their entire home that they can later go over with their family. For example, if a fire were to start in your child's bedroom, how could you safely escape from the kitchen?

- ⇒ Allow the pairs 15 minutes to draw the plan. Circulate through the room, checking on each group, helping them, and answering any questions they may have.

8.) Wrap-up

Action: Go over the suggested home activities and the resource list with the participants. Ask the participants to fill out and hand in the evaluation sheet at the back of their binder materials. Remind them that the evaluation page is anonymous. Answer any questions they have about the form. Collect the evaluation and the attendance sheet. After the session, offer the participants the opportunity to touch, handle or practice with any of the items from the demonstration.

Timing Chart for Injury Prevention Session V

Activity	Materials	Time Allotted
Introduction		3 minutes
Did You Know	<i>Did You Know?...</i> sheet	5 minutes
Brainstorm	Board, Chalk/Markers	15 minutes
Small Groups	Risk/Prevention List	15 minutes
Demonstration	Safety Products	10 minutes
Lecturette	Fire Escape Plan Checklist	10 minutes
Pairs	Escape Route Template	15 minutes
Wrap-up	Resource List, Evaluation	5 minutes
Total Time		1 hr, 20 mins.

Figure 4: Burn/Fire & Posioning Hazards In the Home

In any room

Extension cords
Electrical Outlets
Heaters
Lead Paint

Kitchen

Stove/Oven (burn, fire, and CO poisoning!)
Matches
Cooking Oil
Any hot pan on the stove, particularly boiling liquid
Curtains

Bathroom

Cleaning Products, Detergents, Soaps
Beauty Products
Hot water
Metal Faucet
Fumigation materials
Medicines

Living Room

Candles—curtains & tablecloths
Cigarettes/Matches/Lighter
Appliances, Frayed Cords

Bedroom

Space or other heaters
Cigarettes/Matches/Lighter
Perfume/Cologne
Clothes Iron

***Injury and Violence Prevention Center
Injury Prevention Parent Workshop Series***

***Serie de Talleres:
La Prevención de Lesiones a los Niños***

**Safe At Home I
Seguridad en el Hogar I**

Small Group Worksheet

Strategies to reduce or eliminate home safety risks...

Estrategias para reducir o eliminar riesgos en el hogar...

please circle: living room dining room bathroom kitchen bedroom
encircula uno: sala comedor baño cocina recámara

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Session VI: Home Safety and Review

⇒ Pass around the attendance sheet.

1.) Demonstration

Purpose: The demonstration will familiarize the participant with different home safety products and re-orient the group to thinking about home safety. In this last session, we will discuss home safety beyond poison safety and fire prevention.

Action: The facilitator should open the discussion by showing products or pictures of products. Ask the group what each item is, what it is used for, and why it is important. For each item, have them read a fact from the *Did You Know?...* page in their binder materials. Show:

- Window guard
- Baby tub
- Anti-slip tub mat
- Toys: pictures or examples of “good” and “bad” toys can be used to demonstrate both the function of a “choke tube,” and to begin the discussion about violent and non-violent toys and video games, and about violence prevention.

2.) Small Group Activity

Purpose: This small group activity will get the participants thinking about home safety and risk reduction in the context of all the different injury prevention topics that were discussed over the course of the workshop series.

Action: First, with whole group, quickly review a list of different mechanisms of injury in the home. Falls, drowning, firearms, choking, cuts, electricity, suffocation should all be mentioned. Refer to Figure 1 and remind them of the brainstorm web of different injuries they created in the very first session. Write responses on the board. Then, divide participants up into smaller groups. Assign each group a room in the house (or more than one room, if there are fewer than 5 groups), and distribute overheads of the injury risk pictures for each room: kitchen, bath, living room, bedroom.

⇒ Ask each group to circle all of the injury risks in the picture(s) they have. Ask them to write down the type of injury that could be caused by the hazard and at least one way to prevent that injury or to reduce the risk.

⇒ Have the group join again as a whole after 20 minutes on task. A representative from each group will show their picture(s) on the overhead machine and explain what strategies they devised for reducing or eliminating the risk. Let the participants from other groups make constructive comments and suggestions or ask questions. Relate hazards and the prevention strategies (e.g., environmental modification, explanations to children) back to earlier sessions.

⇒ Emphasize risks at different developmental stages (e.g., choking as a hazard only for children under 3 years), the importance of supervision, and strategies to teach the child the prevention skill. Remind participants of the Risks/Prevention List in the Session V materials.

3.) Lecturette: Age-Appropriate and Non-Violent Toys

Purpose: Playing is necessary for a child's development. However, toys can also present grave danger to children if they are not appropriate for a child's age—for example, if a toddler plays with a toy that has small pieces, s/he could choke by accidentally swallowing one of the small pieces. Toys for older children are not as developmentally stimulating for a younger child and vice versa. In addition, some toys, including television shows and video or computer games, are marketed to children yet are not appropriate for them because of violent and/or sexual content. Parents should make a conscious effort not to purchase violent toys for their children (such as toy guns) and to monitor closely what their children watch on TV. Experiences with violent toys and exposure to violence through media outlets may make children more prone to violent behavior as they grow up.

Action: Use pictures and "live" examples of different kinds of toys to demonstrate violent and non-violent toys. Use the Safe Toys handout from the binder materials as a guide. Emphasize that an "age-appropriate" toy depends on the age and developmental stage of the child who is going to use it—and a rule of thumb for multiple children playing together, is that the most appropriate toys for the group should be determined by the youngest child who is going to use it. So, if a two year old and a 4 year old are playing together, any toy with small parts is not age-appropriate because it poses a risk to the younger child. If the 4 year old were playing alone, s/he could use a toy with small parts, because 4 year olds are much less likely to choke on small pieces.

As children progress through different developmental stages, they are exploring and learning constantly. One of the ways children learn is by watching what happens in their surroundings. They learn social skills and behaviors by seeing what other children and adults do, both in their immediate environment and on television. For this reason, it is important to monitor what children watch on television and what video/computer games they play as they grow up. Children as young as two years old can be influenced by seeing graphic violence on TV often. Children find it difficult to differentiate reality from fantasy, and may feel either terrorized by what they see or desensitized by it. Either way, kids are more likely to behave violently later in childhood and into adolescence if they are exposed to violence—real or fictional— as young children.

Discuss with participants what positive, non-violent toys include for different age groups: books, stuffed animals, dolls, costumes to let them act out different "adult" roles, large and small blocks, building sets, chemistry sets, microscopes, cars and trucks, ...

4.) Game: Age-Appropriate Toys

Purpose: In this game, participants will work together to decide what toys are appropriate for what age group.

Action: Divide the participants into three groups. Have three game set-ups available in different areas of the room, preferably posted on the wall. Each group has to match their toy picture cards to the appropriate age group on a grid. The first group to fill in the development chart correctly wins.

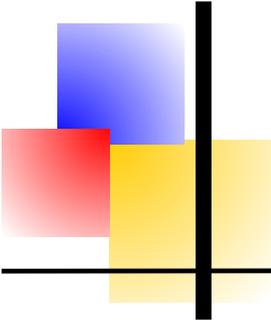
5.) Wrap-up/Closing

This is the last workshop of the series. Thank everyone for their participation, answer any final questions, and fill out the Session 6 evaluations. Remind participants that the home visitors will be conducting a follow-up session in the home with a home assessment checklist and a second survey for the parent. These interviews are anonymous and are for the purposes of improving the workshops in the future, so we hope they will all agree to answer the questions that the home visitor asks. In addition, the person who wrote the curriculum would like the opportunity to speak with a few people who attended most or all of the sessions about what they thought about the workshops. If anyone is willing to speak with her, please identify yourself at the end of the session.

⇒ Facilitator: please take down contact information for the participant so that Pietra can set up a time to meet her and discuss the workshops informally with her.

Timing Chart for Injury Prevention Session VI

Activity	Materials	Time Allotted
Demonstration	Home Safety Products	15 minutes
Small Group Activity	Overhead Pictures	30 minutes
Lecturette	Toy Pictures	10 minutes
Game	Game Cards, Prizes	10 minutes
Closing	Evaluation	20 minutes
Total Time		1 ½ hours



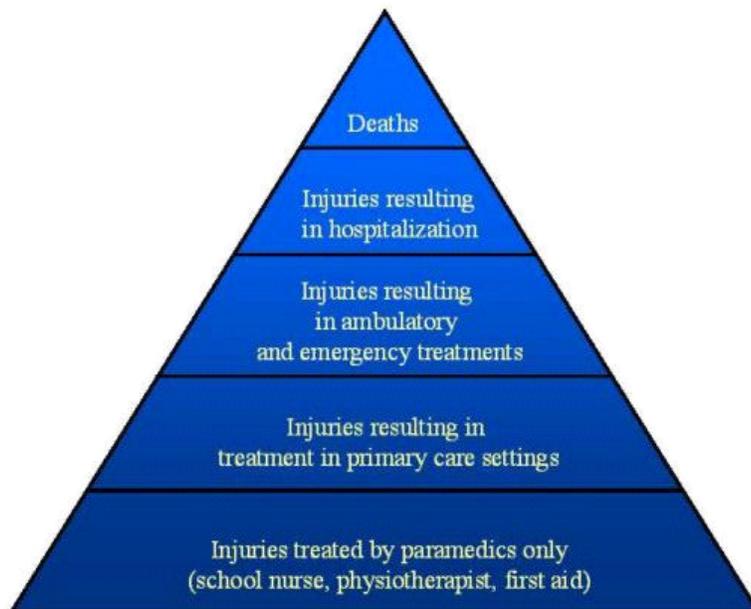
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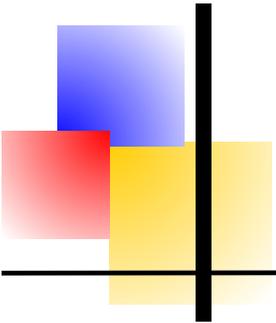
Overview

Session I: Injuries CAN Be Prevented!

Session Objectives:

1. Participants will gain a greater understanding of the answers to the following questions:
 - a. What is injury?
 - b. Why is it important?
 - c. Why do children get injured?
 - d. How do children in Washington Heights become injured?
 - e. How can I protect my child from injury?
2. Participants will discuss the role of the environment in childhood injury.
3. Participants will be able to name three environmental factors that have the potential to cause an injury but that can be prevented.





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Resources

Session I: Injuries CAN Be Prevented!

Books:

-  Don't Talk to Strangers, Pooh! By Kathleen W. Zoehfeld; Ill. Robbin Cuddy; Pub. Disney Press (ages 4-6 years)
-  Dinosaurs, Beware! A Safety Guide By Marc Brown & Stephen Krensky; Pub. Little, Brown & Company (ages 2 years and up)
-  Officer Buckle and Gloria By Peggy Rathmann; Pub. Putnam (all ages)

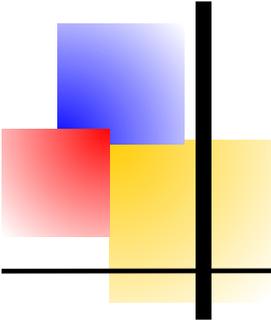
Websites:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Injury Free Coalition for Kids® | www.injuryfree.org |
| Consumer Product Safety Commission | www.cpsc.gov |
| Kids in Danger | www.kidsindanger.org |
| My Safe Family | www.mysafefamily.com |

Organizations:

- EMERGENCY Number: (Police, Fire, and Ambulance): Dial **9-1-1**
- Poison Control Center: 1-800-222-1222
- 33rd Police Precinct: (212) 927-3200 34th Police Precinct: (212) 927-9711
- Fire Department: (212) 999-2222
- Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Hotline: (800) 638-2772
- Injury and Violence Prevention Center: (212) 305-7464





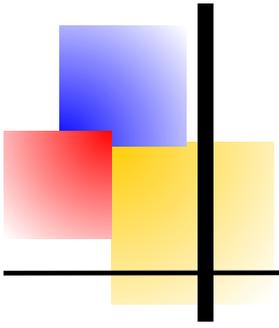
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Did You Know...

Session I: Injuries CAN Be Prevented!

- ✪ Injury is the leading cause of death for children and youth over age 1 in the United States.
- ✪ Patterns of injury in children depend on many factors, including developmental stage, age, gender, geography, and other environmental characteristics. Some of these can be changed to make your child's environment safer.
- ✪ In many countries around the world, and even here in New York, community-based and governmental programs have succeeded at reducing the rates of many different types of injury to children, including falls, motor vehicle-related injury, and bicycle-related injury.
- ✪ The five most common severe injuries— meaning that they are serious enough that the child has to be admitted to the hospital for at least one night — among children up to 19 years old in Washington Heights are: falls, poisoning, burns, assaults, and motor vehicle-related injuries.





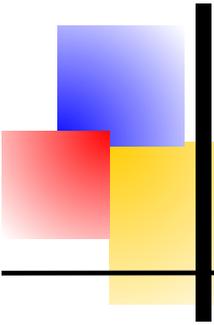
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Activities You Can Do With Your Child...

Session I: Injuries CAN Be Prevented!

1. Get down on your child's level and look at the surroundings in your home. See how tall your child is, what he or she can and cannot see and reach, and try to understand a child's perspective on the world based on size and position. Think about the temptations and obstacles that he or she comes across every day, and how to make the surroundings safer.

2. Think about something that your child learned to do recently— for example, walk, run, climb, sleep in a bed rather than a crib. Now think about some things you might have to do differently to protect your child from things in his or her environment, given this recent accomplishment. What are the new obstacles s/he is facing? The new abilities? The new precautions you need to take to keep him or her safe?



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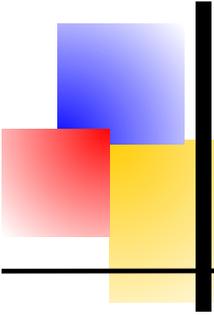
Overview

Session 2: Help Your Child Play It Safe!

Session Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to name three potentially harmful situations to look out for on a playground.
2. Participants will work together to produce a list of strategies for setting rules at the playground.
3. Participants will practice reacting to different potentially hazardous situations at the playground.





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Resources

Session 2: Help Your Child Play It Safe!

Books:

-  Maisy Goes to the Playground By Lucy Cousins; Pub. Candlewick Press (ages 2 years and up)
-  Let's Play / Vamos A Jugar Ill. Hideo Shirotani; Pub. Simon & Schuster (all ages)
-  At the Playground By Sesame Street; Pub. Random House, Inc. (preschool aged children)
-  Acka Backa Boo! Playground Games from Around the World By Opal Dunn; Ill. Susan Winter; Pub. Holt (5-8 years old)
-  King of the Playground By Phyllis Reynolds Naylor; Ill. Nola L. Malone; Pub. Simon & Schuster (5-8 years old)
-  A Kid's Guide to Staying Safe At Playgrounds By Maribeth Boelts; Designed By Erin McKenna; Pub. Rosen Pub. Group, Inc. (8-10 years old)

Websites:

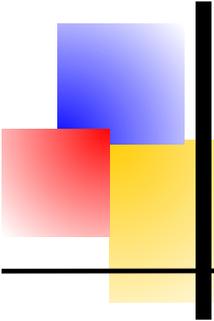
National Program for Playground Safety
www.uni.edu/playground/home.html

National Magazine for Today's Playground Design and Standards
www.todaysplayground.com

Other:

New York City Parks Department: 311





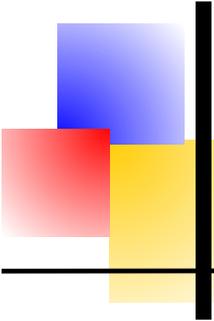
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Did You Know...

Session 2: Help Your Child Play It Safe!



- ▶ Each year in the United States, more than 200,000 children are injured at a playground.
- ▶ Around three-quarters of injuries happen on public playground equipment.
- ▶ Most public playground injuries occur on climbing equipment.
- ▶ Among school-aged children (5-14 years old), playground-related injuries are the most common of all injuries.
- ▶ The most frequent serious injury to children in Washington Heights is falls; almost 10% of these happen at the playground.



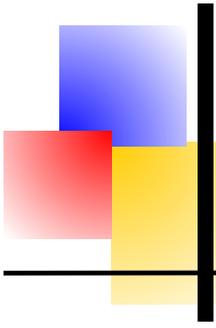
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Activities You Can Do With Your Child...

Session 2: Help Your Child Play It Safe!

1. Start a *Playground Watch* group for your neighborhood playground. Get together with other parents to set consistent rules among your children, and to inspect the playground equipment weekly. If most of the children have to obey the same rules, it will be easier for them to follow them. If maintenance is needed, call the Parks Department and report what is needed at your playground. There is strength in numbers: if many parents from a neighborhood call, the Parks Department will be more likely to respond quickly.
2. Help your child draw or design her “ideal” playground using blocks, paper, or other materials. Ask him to come up with some suggestions about how he can have fun but be safer at the playground. Talk to your child about the rules of playing with each different type of equipment, and repeat and enforce those rules every time you take her to play.
3. The next time you take your child to play at the playground, tell him you are going to play “Playground Inspectors” first. Explain that before playing on the equipment today, the two of you will be checking the equipment for safety. Read the items on the playground safety check list and check the equipment for dangers. If your child is old enough (4-5 years and up), have her look for unsafe things too as you read them out. Use this time to talk with your child (older or younger) about playground safety and how his own actions can also make the playground a safer place for everyone. Discuss the rules of play at the playground with your child, then have fun playing safely!





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What Would You Do?

Session 2: Help Your Child Play It Safe!

How would you react to the following situations?

1. Your child is next in line for the slide, and the child in front of him is smaller than he is. The child whose turn it is gets scared, and won't slide down. Your child loses his patience and sits down behind him to try to push him down.
2. Your local playground has an area for small children and a higher, larger area for bigger kids. Your two-year-old is the only child on the smaller equipment, but there are more older children on the other equipment. She starts to wander over, looking for playmates. When you call her back, she doesn't listen and keeps going.
3. You are taking your child to the park, and he wants to ride his tricycle along side you as you walk. As you get ready to go, he refuses to put on his helmet.
4. You notice rust on the metal slides and some broken bottles at your local playground.



Play It Safe!

On The Slide...

FEET FIRST...
SITTING DOWN...
WAIT YOUR TURN...
ONE AT A TIME!



- ⇒ Always use the steps
- ⇒ Never climb UP the slide or on top of the tunnel
- ⇒ Wait your turn

Look first, give a warning call, then GO!



On the Climber...

HOLD ON WITH 2 HANDS...
REACH ONLY AS FAR AS YOU CAN...
ONE AT A TIME...
LAND WITH YOUR KNEES BENT!

- ⇒ Don't push
- ⇒ Wait your turn
- ⇒ Don't rush- go at your own speed



On the Swings...

HOLD ON WITH 2 HANDS...
SIT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEAT...
ONE AT A TIME...
STOP THE SWING BEFORE YOU GET OFF!

- ⇒ Never stand or kneel on the swing
- ⇒ Never swing empty swings
- ⇒ Don't climb on the bars

Playground Safety Checklist

Help your children stay safe on the playground! Parents can use this checklist to see if their local public or school playground is a safe place for their children to play.

- ALWAYS **carefully** ground. This is the
- Check the playground the surfacing and
- Be sure that there is the park area or that
- The ground underneath the playground equipment should have a covering at least 9-12 inches deep of a soft surfacing material, such as wood chips, mulch, loose sand, or mats made of safety-tested rubber.
- Make sure that protective surfacing extends at least 6 feet in all directions from the playground equipment. Underneath swings, the surfacing equipment should reach, in both the back and the front, two times the height of the bar the swings hang from.
- Check the equipment for exposed hardware, such as open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends, and for sharp or jagged edges that can cut your child.
- Watch for dangerous objects on the ground, like broken glass or large rocks that can cut or
- Make sure high areas, like guardrails to prevent your
- Check that spaces between and fencing is either smaller
- Play structures that are more than 30 inches (2 1/2 feet) high should be at least 9 feet away from each other.
- If you find that some part of the playground is unsafe for children, contact the playground administrator. For public parks in New York City, that is...



supervise children on the play best way to ensure their safety. fairly often to make sure that equipment are in good condition. adequate fencing surrounding the park is not near the street.



trip your child. platforms and ramps, have child from falling. bars on equipment such as guardrails than 3 inches or larger than 9 inches. than 30 inches (2 1/2 feet) high

A Strategy for Keeping Our Children Safe at the Playground

S.A.F.E.

Supervision

- Adults should always be present to watch children and ensure that they are playing safely.
- Kids should not wear loose-fitting clothing that can get caught in the equipment.
- Drawstrings and shoe laces should be tied. Drawstrings can strangle the child, and untied shoelaces can trip your child.

Appropriate equipment on the playground

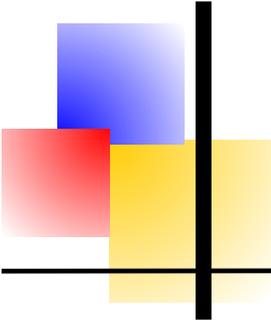
- Children should play on equipment that is right for their age, size, and ability. Small children can fall off equipment that is too big for them. Make sure your child is old enough and big enough to be safe on the equipment.
- Equipment should be at least **6** feet away from any barriers, including fences.
- Swings should be made of soft material.

Falls Prevention

- Falls are the most common injuries among children in Washington Heights.
- Make sure there is always soft material like sand, wood chips, or rubber underneath the equipment at the parks where your child plays.
- Check for glass and other dangerous objects that your child could fall onto.

Equipment Maintenance

- Make sure that the equipment your child is playing on is not rusty.
- Watch out for sharp edges on slides.
- Make sure the swings are not broken.
- Any defect should be reported or repaired immediately! Contact your local authorities, such as the Parks Department, police, or school officials.



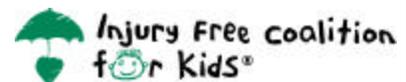
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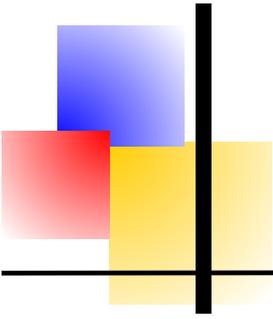
Overview

Session 3: Watch It On Wheels

Session Objectives:

1. Participants will learn to choose the right size equipment for children, including bicycles, helmets, and safety pads.
2. Participants will work together to produce a list of strategies for encouraging their children to be safe on wheels.
3. Participants will be able to identify common myths relating to wheels safety.





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Resources

Session 3: Watch It On Wheels

Books:

-  Franklin Rides A Bike By Paulette Bourgeois; Ill. Brenda Clark; Pub. Scholastic (ages 3-6 years)
-  Franklin's Bicycle Helmet By Paulette Bourgeois; Ill. Brenda Clark; Pub. Scholastic (ages 3-6 years)
-  Where Can I Go? / ¿Adónde puedo ir? Ill. Pamela Cote; Pub. Houghton Mifflin (ages 6 months +)
-  How Can I Get There? / ¿Cómo puedo llegar allá? Ill. Pamela Cote; Pub. Houghton Mifflin (ages 6 mos. +)

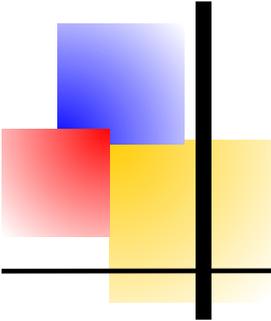
Websites:

- Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute: www.bhsi.org
- National Bicycle Safety Network: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/bike/default.htm
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Network: www.bicyclinginfo.org
- International Inline Skating Association: www.iisa.org
- Get Rolling (Inline Skating): www.getrolling.com
- Skaters (Inline Skating): www.skategrll.com
- Skateboards: www.skateboard.com

Other:

- Central Park Skate Patrol (volunteer organization): (212) 439-1234
- Manny's Bike Shop 8 Bennet Ave @ 181st (212)927-8501
- Tread Bike Shop 225 Dyckman (212)544-7055
- Victor Bike Repair 4125 Broadway @ 174st (212)740-5137





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Did You Know...

Session 3: Watch It On Wheels



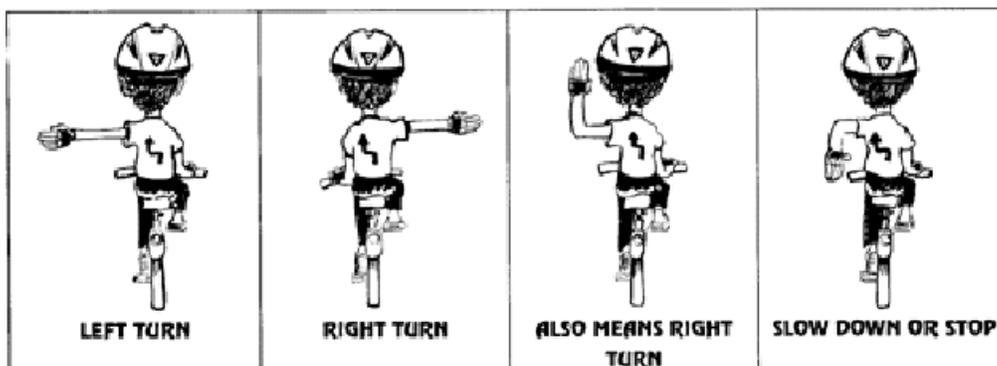
- 🚲 A bicycle helmet can decrease the risk of head injury in a crash by 85%. Head injury is the leading cause of death from bicycle crashes, and the most important predictor of permanent disability.
- 🚲 Children under the age of 14 years have the highest risk of bicycle-related injuries, which can include severe facial and head injuries.
- 🚲 In 1999, bicyclists who were 5-18 years old died almost twice as often as bicyclists in other age groups.
- 🚲 A child must be able to balance, steer, brake, and use hand signals well before s/he can ride a bike unsupervised. Children do not usually develop these skills until they are at least 10 years old.
- 🚲 According to the U.S. CPSC, in 2001, more than 104,000 people were treated with skateboard-related injuries.
- 🚲 About 85% of scooter-related injuries occur in children younger than 15 years old. In fact, scooters are not recommended for children under 8 years.

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Activities You Can Do with Your Child...

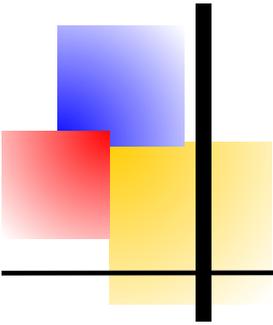
Session 3: Watch It on Wheels

1. Walk with your child as s/he rides his or her bike, trike, scooter, skateboard, or skates on routes to familiar places (school, the park, a friend's building, etc.). Bring a notepad and pen with you to mark any dangerous intersections, and stop your child at these places to point out what is dangerous and what precautions s/he should take when crossing. Ask him/her if there is another route to take that would avoid the dangerous area. Also practice with your child hand signals, the meaning of traffic signs and lights, and how to be visible to cars.
2. Always use the Home Wheels Maintenance Checklist to make sure that your and your child's wheels are safe before you go out riding. A few minutes of safety now could save your child's life.
3. Have your child decorate his/her helmet with stickers to make it more fashionable and personalized.
3. Have your child sign the Helmet Pledge and color the *Head Smart Activity Book* included in this packet.



Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute
www.bhsi.org

 Injury Free Coalition
for Kids®
 Morgan Stanley
Children's Hospital
of NewYork-Presbyterian
Columbia University Medical Center



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Myth Or Reality?

Session 3: Watch It On Wheels

For each of the following statements, please decide if it is a *MYTH* or a *REALITY*.

1. Carrying a passenger (“double riding”) on a bicycle is safe, as long as the passenger weighs less than the driver.

MYTH REALITY

2. A child should never wear sandals or go barefoot when riding a bicycle, tricycle, scooter, skateboard, or skates.

MYTH REALITY

3. Helmets only protect children from bicycle crashes, not scooter, skateboard, or skate crashes.

MYTH REALITY

4. A helmet is only necessary if a child is riding in the street.

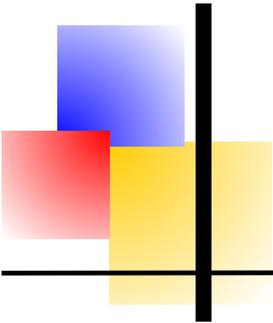
MYTH REALITY



5. Children should ride facing traffic.

MYTH REALITY





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Myth Or Reality?

Session 3: Watch It On Wheels

For each of the following statements, please decide if it is a *MYTH* or a *REALITY*.

6. Scooters are only appropriate for older children.

MYTH REALITY

7. It is safe for a child to ride after dark.

MYTH REALITY

8. Children on tricycles don't need to wear helmets.

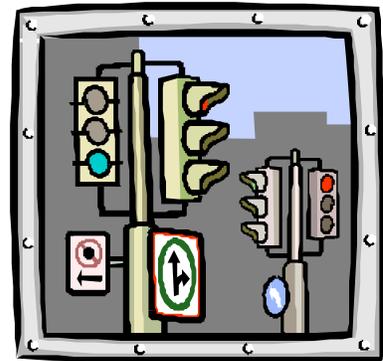
MYTH REALITY

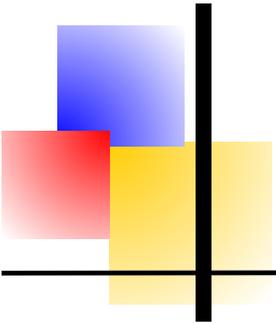
9. A helmet is the only protective gear worth buying.

MYTH REALITY

10. New York State Law mandates that children 14 and younger wear sport helmets when riding bicycles, skateboards, and skates.

MYTH REALITY





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Myth Or Reality?

Session 3: Watch It On Wheels



For each of the following statements, please decide if it is a *MYTH* or a *REALITY*.

11. When buying a bicycle or protective gear for a child, it is best to buy it a little big so that the child can grow into it.

MYTH REALITY

12. An eight-year old is old enough to ride without an adult, as long as s/he is with a group of friends.

MYTH REALITY

13. It is important for a child to know hand signals, as well as the meanings of traffic signs and signals, before being allowed to ride on the sidewalk and the street.

MYTH REALITY

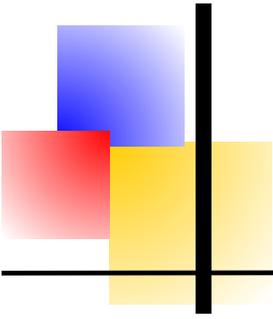
14. Regular equipment maintenance can make riding a bike, scooter, skateboard, or skates safer.

MYTH REALITY

15. A low-slung, big-wheels style tricycle is safer for young children because it is less likely a child will fall off.

MYTH REALITY





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Evaluation

Session 3: Watch It On Wheels

Please tell us what you learned and how you liked this workshop by answering the following questions:

1. What are three strategies to encourage your child to wear a sport helmet?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

2. How much do you feel like you learned at this workshop? Did you learn...
(Please circle one)

A lot	Some	A Little	Nothing At All
-------	------	----------	----------------

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 3. Did the facilitator(s) make you feel comfortable during the workshop? | Y | N |
| 4. Did the facilitator(s) explain things well to the group? | Y | N |
| 5. Were you satisfied with the way the facilitator answered questions? | Y | N |
- If not, please explain. _____
- _____

6. Did you enjoy the activities the group did during the workshop? Y N

7. Please circle, for each of the following statements, if you think it is a **myth** or a **reality**.

- | | | |
|---|------|---------|
| 1. A child should never wear sandals or go barefoot when riding a bike, scooter, or skates. | Myth | Reality |
| 2. Helmets are only necessary for older children; kids on tricycles don't need them. | Myth | Reality |
| 3. Scooters are appropriate toys for preschoolers. | Myth | Reality |
| 4. Children under 10 do NOT have the skills they need to ride without adult supervision. | Myth | Reality |

8. What can we do to make future workshops on this topic better?

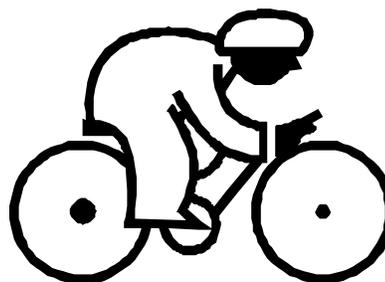


Home Wheels Maintenance Checklist

IF YOU HAVE A...

Bicycle/Tricycle:

- ✓ Check the wheels to make sure they are aligned correctly and are not wobbly. If they are, take them to a bike shop to have them realigned. (See the resource list for Bike Repair shops in Washington Heights and Inwood).
- ✓ Check the following parts regularly, and replace them when they are broken or look worn out:
 - ? Brake pads
 - ? Chain Links
 - ? Spokes
 - ? Screws, nuts, and bolts
 - ? Handlebar grips
 - ? Pedals
- ✓ Tighten all loose parts.
- ✓ Inspect the frame for cracks.
- ✓ Check the tire pressure. The bike's owner's manual should list a recommended tire pressure. Inflate tires if necessary, and replace them when the tread is worn.
- ✓ Clean and lightly oil the chain and other moving parts— but try to avoid getting the oil on rubber (on the wheels).
- ✓ Store the bicycle indoors when not in use, if possible. Moisture and cold from the outside can cause the frame and parts to rust.



Adapted from CPSC Document #346.

Home Wheels Maintenance Checklist

IF YOU HAVE A...

Skateboard:

(not recommended for children under 5; children 5-10 need close supervision)

- ✓ Check the deck of your skateboard for deep cracks or cracks that separate the layers of wood. Decks with large pieces broken off should be replaced.
- ✓ Every time you skate, check the axle wheel lock nuts (the nuts that hold the wheels onto the trucks). They become loose easily during normal use, and wear out with repeated tightening. Tighten loose nuts, and replace worn out or stripped ones.
- ✓ Check your truck mounting hardware (the parts that hold the truck to the deck) once a week. These pieces loosen easily from vibration during normal use. Tighten bolts and screws if necessary.
- ✓ Make sure the truck hangers and base plates are not cracked.
- ✓ Wash grimy grip tape with a plastic bristle brush and small amounts of water. Towel dry the tape after cleaning, and let it air dry before using the board.
- ✓ Bearings are the tiny metal balls that make your wheels spin. They should be cleaned and lubricated or replaced when they squeak, cause a rough ride, or if your wheels are not spinning freely. Remove dirty bearings from the wheel, pop off the shields, and spray them out with a solvent and lubricant. Put them back on immediately.
- ✓ Keep your skateboard wheels smooth. Wipe the wheels and bearings down after each ride with a clean, dry cloth. Rotate your wheels regularly, so they wear evenly. Wheels should be replaced when large chunks of wheel are missing, the wheel has a flat spot, or the bearings pop out easily.

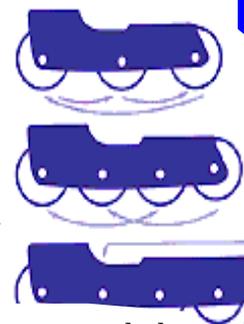
Adapted from Skateboard Repair and Care © 2001 PageWise, Inc. and skateboard.com

Home Wheels Maintenance Checklist

IF YOU HAVE...

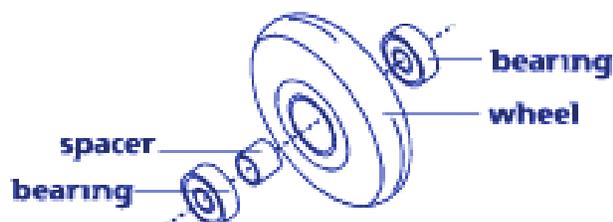
Skates:

**Wheel
Rotation**



- ✓ Rotate your wheels after every time you skate. Consult the manual in your skate box for wheel rotation instructions for your skates.
- ✓ If your wheels become wet, remove both (there are two) bearings and the bearing spacer from each wheel and wipe them clean and dry. Never lubricate the outside of your bearings— it attracts dirt.
- ✓ Check the wear on your brake pad before and after every time you skate. Make sure the brake is firmly attached to the skate and is not worn down. Brake pads have a “wear line” that tells you when you need to replace the brake pad— always replace it **BEFORE** the wear line is reached.
- ✓ Eventually, the rolling components of your skates— that is, the wheels and bearings, will wear out and you will need to replace them. Use this as an opportunity to upgrade the wheels and bearings to reflect your personal improvement as a skater.
- ✓ Most liners on your protective gear (wrist guards and knee and elbow pads) and the inner liner of your skates can and should be washed regularly. Hand wash the liners in mild detergent, and air dry them before putting them back into their plastic shells.

Adapted from Skate and Gear Care!, T. Miyamoto, www.iisa.org



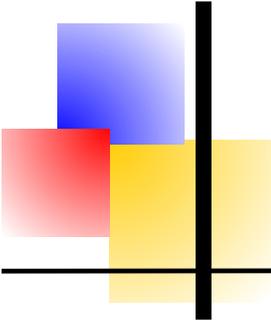
MY BIKE SAFETY PLEDGE

I _____ promise to...

-  Always wear my helmet when I ride my bike.
-  Always wear my elbow and knee pads.
-  Always wear sneakers when I ride.
-  Always ride single file in the same direction as traffic.
-  **Stop, Look and Listen** before crossing the street.
-  Never ride at night.
-  Never ride on bumpy, rocky, or wet roads.
-  Never carry someone else on my bike.
-  Watch out for people walking around me.
-  Never ride without an adult watching out for my safety.

Signature

Date



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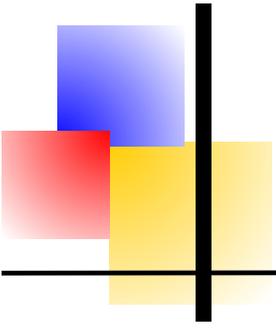
Overview

Session 4: Safety On the Road

Session Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to describe what physically happens to the people in a car when it crashes, and will discuss different factors that can cause a crash.
2. Participants will be able to name three types of child passenger safety seats and choose the correct type of seat and position for their children.
3. Participants will learn at least three strategies for teaching their children about traffic safety.





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Resources

Session 4: Safety On the Road

Books:

-  I Read Signs By Tania Hoban; Pub. Scholastic (all ages)
-  There Was a Bold Lady Who Wanted a Star By Charise Mericle Harper; Pub. Little, Brown & Company (ages 4-8 years)

Websites:

- Consumer Product Safety Commission www.cpsc.gov
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration www.nhtsa.dot.gov

Organizations:

- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (518) 785-6233
New York State Chapter
- New York City Department of Transportation 311



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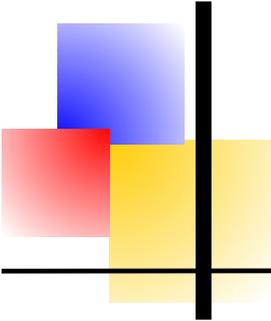
Did You Know...

Session 4: Safety On the Road

- ⊗ Every year, more than 3,000 children aged 4-8 are killed in car crashes.
- ⊗ 85% of car seats are not installed correctly.
- ⊗ A car seat, used correctly, can decrease a child's risk of death in a car crash by 71%.
- ⊗ In 1999, almost one-quarter (25%) of all children between the ages of 5 and 9 years old, who were killed in traffic crashes, were killed as pedestrians (while *walking*— not while in a car).



- ⊗ Most crashes involving child pedestrians happen between 3 and 6 pm.
- ⊗ Children on bicycles, scooters, tricycles, skateboards, and skates are at great risk for crashes as they cross intersections.

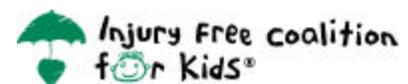


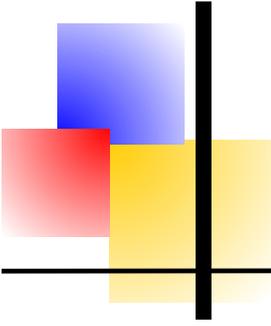
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Activities You Can Do with Your Child...

Session 4: Safety On the Road

1. Always put your child in a proper restraint system until s/he is 9 years old. Even when riding in a friend's or relative's car, or in a taxi, your baby or child is at risk for severe injury if s/he is not restrained correctly. To make sure the seat is installed right, go through the One-Minute Safety Seat Checklist each time you strap your baby in.
2. Take a walk with your child around the neighborhood. Go to a familiar place —the supermarket, his or her school. But as you go, jot down areas where you would like something to be changed. Read through the “Walkability Checklist” before you go, and fill it in at the end. This way, you can give a score to your walk and see how safe your route is. At each intersection, remind your child what to do. After a few blocks, ask your child what to do, and let him practice telling you how to cross the street properly. Ask him to point out anything dangerous that he sees, and talk about how those situations or areas could be avoided. Explain how your child can make herself more visible, and what the signs are that a car is on and about to move (headlights, taillights, exhaust smoke, sounds...).
3. If you have access to a car, and to another adult who can help you: Let your child sit in the driver's seat and send your helper out in front of the car. Have the helper crouch down to the height of your child, and ask the child if she can see the helper. Have the helper move different distances closer to and away from the front of the car. Children usually believe that if they see a driver, a driver sees them. This activity will help your child understand that he is not as visible to drivers as he may think.





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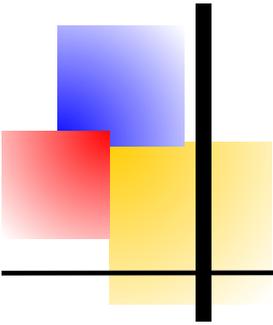
What Would You Do?

Session 4: Safety On the Road

If you were in this situation, what would you do?

1. You and your three-year-old are walking along Broadway to go to the store. It is 5:30 pm in December— it's dark out already, and you are both bundled up so you don't get cold. What are the safety risks in this situation? What can you say and do to teach your child to walk safely?
2. Your four-year-old wants to ride her tricycle as you walk to your sister's house three blocks away. She refuses to wear her helmet, but is insisting on riding the tricycle anyway. How do you react?
3. You are in a rush to get to an appointment with your 3 and a half year old child's pediatrician, and you will have to take a cab to get there on time. His safety seat is by the door to the apartment, but you know it will take you a long time to get it into and out of the cab, once you find a cab that the seat even fits into. Do you leave it home?





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Evaluation

Session 4: Safety On the Road

Please tell us what you learned and how you liked this workshop by answering the following questions:

1. Please name three types of child passenger safety seats (car seats), and whether the baby should be forward or rear facing in that seat.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

2. How much do you feel like you learned at this workshop? Did you learn...
(Please circle one)

A lot

Some

A Little

Nothing At All

3. Did the facilitator(s) make you feel comfortable during the workshop? Y N

4. Did the facilitator(s) explain things well to the group? Y N

5. Were you satisfied with the way the facilitator answered questions? Y N

If not, please explain. _____

6. Did you enjoy the activities the group did during the workshop? Y N

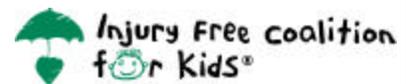
7. Please name three ways you can teach your child to be safe in traffic situations.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

8. What can we do to make future workshops on this topic better?



Car Seat Comparison: Which Seat Is Right for my Child?

	0-1 year & Up to 20 lbs.	0-1 year & Over 20 lbs.	Over 1 year & 20-40 lbs.	1-8 years & Over 40 lbs.	8 years or 4'9" - 13 years
Infant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rear facing 				
Convertible		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rear facing Specially rated for heavier infants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forward facing 		
Combination			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forward facing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forward facing 	
Booster				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forward facing 	
Built-In			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forward facing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forward facing 	
Lap & Shoulder Seat Belts				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always use seat belts with booster seats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always sit in the back seat
Things to Remember	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Straps should be <i>at or below</i> baby's shoulders 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Straps should be <i>at or above</i> baby's shoulders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lap belts should fit low and tight across the child's hips 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chest clip should be fastened in the center of the chest <i>at the same height as the baby's armpit</i> to keep the straps positioned properly Straps should fit snugly, lying straight without sagging 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The middle of the back seat is usually the safest position in a car. Always Verify this with the car seat instructions and the vehicle owner's manual. 				

One-Minute Safety Seat Checklist

Does your child ride in the correct safety seat?

Using a safety seat correctly makes a big difference— it could save your baby's life in a crash. Yet, an estimated **85%** of car seats are not installed correctly when they are used. Go through this checklist to make sure you are using the right seat for your child's age and weight, and that each time you use it, you are putting it in properly.

Passenger Safety Tips

-  All children aged 13 and under should ride properly restrained in the **BACK SEAT** of the car. The middle of the back seat is safest.
-  Never place a rear-facing car seat in a seat that has an air bag (for example— in the front seat where there is a passenger-side air bag).
-  Always read the instruction manual that came with the car seat.
-  If you have a car, read the parts of the owner's manual that explain seat belts and child safety seat installation.

Adapted from the *NHTSA One Minute Safety Seat Checklist* DOT HS 809 231 May, 2002. www.nhtsa.dot.gov

One-Minute Safety Seat Checklist

If your child is... **0- 1 year old**

And weighs... **Less than 20 pounds**

Then...

- ➔ Your child should ride in the back seat
 - ➔ Your child should ride in an **infant** or **convertible** seat **only**
 - ➔ The child safety seat (car seat) should be **rear-facing** (facing the back window of the car)
 - ➔ The straps should be at or below the baby's shoulders and fit snugly
 - ➔ The chest clip should be fastened at the same height as the baby's armpit so the straps stay in the right place
-

If your child is... **0-1 year old**

And weighs... **More than 20 pounds**

Then...

- ➔ Your child should ride in the back seat
- ➔ Your child should ride in a **convertible** seat that has been specially rated to hold heavier infants (30-35 pounds) while positioned facing the back
- ➔ The child safety seat (car seat) should be **rear-facing** (facing the back window of the car)
- ➔ The straps should be at or below the baby's shoulders and fit snugly
- ➔ The chest clip should be fastened at the same height as the baby's armpit so the straps stay in the right place

One-Minute Safety Seat Checklist

If your child is... Older than 1 year

And weighs... 20-40 pounds

Then...

- ➔ Your child should ride in the back seat
 - ➔ Your child may ride in a **convertible, combination, or built-in** safety seat
 - ➔ The child safety seat (car seat) should be **front-facing** (facing the front of the car)
 - ➔ The straps should be threaded through the top slots in the car seat so they lie at or above the baby's shoulders and fit snugly
 - ➔ The chest clip should be fastened at the same height as the baby's armpit so the straps stay in the right place
-

If your child is... 1-8 years old

And weighs... More than 40 pounds

And is... Shorter than 4'9"

Then...

- ➔ Your child should ride in the back seat
- ➔ Your child should ride in a **belt-positioning or high-backed booster seat**
- ➔ The booster seat should be **facing the front of the car**
- ➔ The child should always fasten both the lap belt and the shoulder belt
- ➔ The lap belt should sit low and tight across the child's hips

Children 8-13 years old should always sit in the back seat with their lap and shoulder belts fastened.

Walkability Checklist

3. Did drivers behave well? 1 2 3 4 5 6

Some possible problems:

Drivers...

- Did not give the right of way to people crossing the street
- Turned into people crossing the street
- Were driving too fast
- Sped up to make it through the traffic light or drove through a red light
- Something else? _____

Location of problems: _____

4. Was it easy to follow safety rules? 1 2 3 4 5 6

Some possible problems:

Could you and your child...

- Cross at crosswalks or where you could see and be seen by drivers?
- Stop and look left, right, then left again before crossing the street?
- Walk on the sidewalk facing traffic?
- Cross when the light was in your favor?

Locations of problems: _____

5. Was your walk pleasant? 1 2 3 4 5 6

Some possible problems:

- Scary dogs
- Suspicious or unsafe activity
- Not well-lit street
- Dirty, with lots of litter or trash

Locations of problems: _____

Did you find something that needs to be changed? Look on the next page to find out what you can do!

Walkability Checklist

How walkable was your neighborhood? Add up all of your ratings and decide:

26-30: You have a great neighborhood for walking

21-25: Pretty good, but there is always room for improvement

16-20: O.k., but the neighborhood could use some work

11-15: Your neighborhood is not too walkable. You and your family deserve better than that!

5-10: A disaster area!

Making your community more walkable

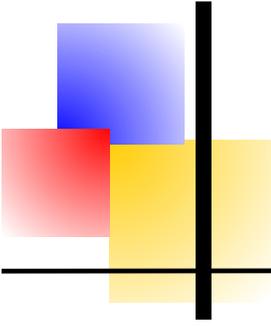
What you can do right now:

- √ Pick another route for now that avoids dangerous situations
- √ Report unsafe driving and cars parked blocking crosswalks to the police
- √ Inform yourself and teach your child how to walk and cross safely
- √ Report poorly lit areas or broken streetlights to the Department of Transportation
- √ Report suspicious activity to the police

Long-term Strategies for Making Your Neighborhood a Safer Place to Walk

- ◆ Organize a group of parents to speak up at Community Board Meetings; push for more crosswalks, better lighting, and better enforcement of parking regulations and speed limits.
- ◆ Make the newspapers and TV stations aware of the problem
- ◆ Start a crime watch program with other parents in your neighborhood. Report suspicious activity to the police, push for heavier enforcement, and patrol the area yourselves in groups.
- ◆ Encourage your child's school to teach walking and community safety.

Adapted from NHTSA Walkability Checklist www.nhtsa.com



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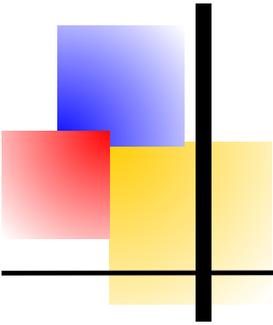
Overview

Session 5: Safe At Home I

Session Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to name three things they should always keep in their home in case of fire.
2. Participants will learn at least four strategies to reduce poison and burn risks in their home.
3. Participants will begin to develop an escape plan for their family in case of a fire.





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Resources

Session 5: Safe At Home I

Books:

-  Fire Truck By Peter Sir; Pub. Harper Collins (all ages)
-  Fire!Fire! By Gail Gibbons; Pub. Harper Collins (ages 4-8)

Websites:

- United States Fire Administration www.usfa.fema.gov
- National Fire Prevention Association
Sparky the Fire Dog Activities Page www.nfpa.org/sparky
- Kidde Safety Home & Fire Safety Company www.kiddesafety.com
Go To “Home Safety Education Center” for children’s and parent’s activities

Organizations:

- To Report a Fire: CALL 9-1-1
- Office of Fire Prevention
Complaints and Violations (718) 999-2541
- Poison Control (212) 764-7667



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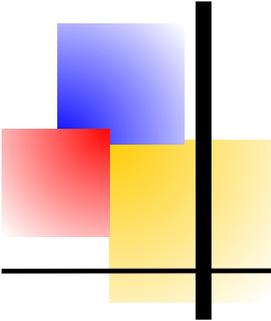
Did You Know...

Session 5: Safe At Home

- ☠ Fire is the second leading preventable cause of death for children in New York City.
- ☠ Children under the age of 5 are twice as likely to die in a fire as people of all ages.
- ☠ It takes four seconds for a child to develop a third degree burn from water at 140°F.



- ☠ Almost 80% of poison control center cases involve children. Over two-thirds of victims are children under 5.
- ☠ 70% of poisonings are preventable.



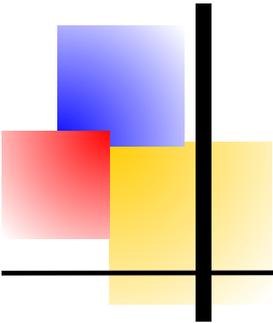
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Activities You Can Do with Your Child...

Session 5: Safe At Home

1. Develop an escape plan for your apartment with your children. Draw it out and let them color it. Explain it and *practice it* with them on a regular basis. If they know what they are supposed to do and are used to doing it, it will be less scary for them in the event of a fire. Emphasize that even though fires are scary, they must not hide during a fire, especially if they hear someone calling for them or see a fire fighter in the house. Post the escape plan in a visible area as a reminder. Let them sign, color, and save the “Junior Fire Marshall” Certificates included in this packet.
2. Once your children are Junior Fire Marshalls, tell them it is their responsibility to make sure the house is fire-proof. Walk through all of the rooms of your home with your children. Ask them to look for things that could start a fire or make it hard for you to leave during a fire, and to point them out to you. If they don't see things, start making suggestions until they catch on to the game. Make a list, then try to fix the things on the list. Include things like toys on the floor. Lots of toys on the floor could trip them as they try to leave the house— and this will be a reminder to your children to pick up after themselves!
3. Have your child draw a picture of one injury prevention topic we've covered during these workshops. Bring the picture in next week, and we will share them during the next session.





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Evaluation

Session 5: Safe At Home

Please tell us what you learned and how you liked this workshop by answering the following questions:

1. Please name three things you should keep on hand in your home in case of a fire.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

2. How much do you feel like you learned at this workshop? Did you learn...
(Please circle one)

A lot	Some	A Little	Nothing At All
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- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 3. Did the facilitator(s) make you feel comfortable during the workshop? | Y | N |
| 4. Did the facilitator(s) explain things well to the group? | Y | N |
| 5. Were you satisfied with the way the facilitator answered questions? | Y | N |
- If not, please explain. _____
- _____

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 6. Did you enjoy the activities the group did during the workshop? | Y | N |
|--|---|---|
7. Please name four strategies to reduce your child's risk of burn and/or poison in your home.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

8. What can we do to make future workshops on this topic better?



Home Safety Checklist

In Case of Fire:

- ✓ There should be one smoke alarm on each floor of your home, and one located near the bedrooms.
- ✓ Test the smoke alarm by pushing the “test” button once per month; the alarm should sound.
- ✓ Replace the smoke alarm battery (9 volt, rectangular battery) twice per year.
- ✓ Make sure your children are familiar with the sound of the smoke alarm and know what to do if it goes off.
- ✓ Keep a portable fire extinguisher in your apartment, especially in rooms where a fire might start— for example, the kitchen.
- ✓ Know how to use the fire extinguisher, and teach your children to use it also.

Burn Hazards:

- ✓ Portable heaters need space! Keep anything that might get hot or catch fire (metal, furniture) at least 3 feet away from a portable heater, and NEVER put anything on top of it. Do not put heaters close to children’s cribs or beds.
- ✓ Put lit candles high out of the reach of children and away from the edges of the surface. Immediately after lighting a candle, store the matches or lighter in a locked drawer. Do not leave candles unattended, and always extinguish them before going to sleep.
- ✓ Always check the temperature of bathwater before your child enters— if it is over 100° F, add more cold water. If your hot tap water seems to scald your child easily, ask your landlord to turn the water heater temperature down to 120°F. New York law prohibits water heater temperatures above this level.

Poisons:

- ✓ Keep all household cleaners, medications and pills, perfumes, beauty and bath products, or other potential poisons in their original containers with the label, stored out of your child’s reach and in a cabinet with a lock.
- ✓ Check your house regularly for chipping or peeling paint, especially in corners and on windowsills. Contact your landlord for touch-ups and check with your child’s pediatrician about the need for a blood lead level test.

Make a Fire Escape Plan: It Could Save Your Life!

BEFORE A FIRE EMERGENCY:

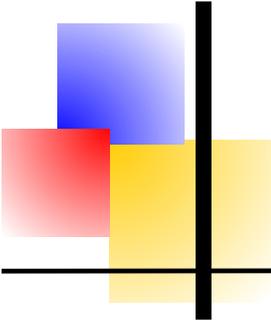
- Learn how to quickly remove window guards from the windows of your apartment. Make sure all of your windows open and shut easily, and are not painted shut.
- Teach children what to do in case of a fire, and where to meet you if you are not home at the time of the emergency or if you get separated.
- Explain to children that they must not hide during a fire, even though it is scary— firefighters are there to help them and need to see and hear them.
- Show children how to crawl low on the floor below the smoke so that they don't breathe the smoke in.
- Teach children to STOP, DROP, and ROLL in case their clothing catches fire. Make sure they understand that if they run, the fire will get worse, not better.
- Map out two safety routes from each room in your apartment: one through the regular doors, and one through the windows and fire escape. Draw out the routes in different colors, and practice leaving the apartment through each of those routes as though it were a real emergency. Meet in your emergency meeting place. With practice, children will know what to do if the real thing happens, and it won't be as scary for them.

IN CASE OF A FIRE EMERGENCY:

- If you live in an apartment, escape by the stairs or by the fire escape— NEVER use the elevator during a fire. You could get trapped.
- Leave your personal belongings behind. Close all doors. Take your keys with you.
- Once you leave, STAY OUT. Never go back into a burning building for ANY reason.
- Designate a safe meeting place outside of your building but close by, in case your family members get separated.
- Once you are outside of the building*, use a public phone or a neighbor's phone to call "9-1-1" to report the fire.

Common Household Risks, and How to *Prevent* Them

Risk	Prevention
Household cleaners	Cabinet Locks
Medicines/ pills	Cabinet Locks
Lead Paint	Check frequently for chipped paint; speak to your doctor about the potential risk for your child
Cooking oil/ grease	Always keep handles turned inwards when cooking; keep a fire extinguisher in the home; have a working smoke detector on each floor of your home
Hot water	Check the water temperature before your child enters the water. Ask your landlord to keep the water heater at 120°F.
Candles	Never leave candles unattended. Avoid lighting candles on surfaces that children can reach.
Beauty products	Cabinet locks
Bath products	Cabinet locks; a lock on the outside of the bathroom door
Ant, roach, or bug killer	Cabinet locks
Plants	Check with your florist to be sure your house-plants are not poisonous.
Paint Thinner	Cabinet locks
Exposed electric sockets	Socket covers, especially on any outlets 3 feet off the ground or less.
Frayed cords on appliances	Check your appliance cords regularly; tie cords up out of reach of children and tape up or replace frayed cords.
Electrical sockets near water	Cover and do not use electrical sockets near water.
Appliances near a sink	Avoid using appliances near water (e.g., hair dryer or curling iron)
Matches or lighter in easy reach	Cabinet locks
Crib or child's bed near space or other heater	Keep all children's beds away from radiators or other heaters, and away from windows.



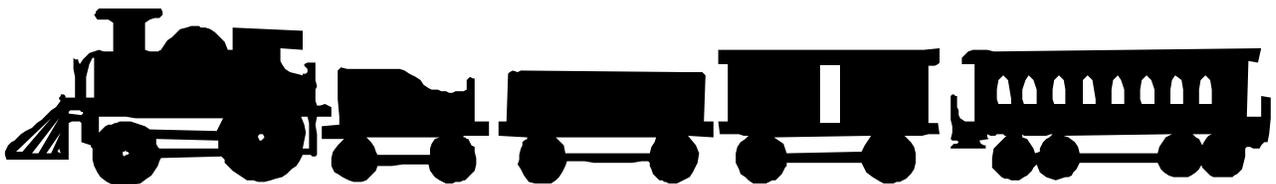
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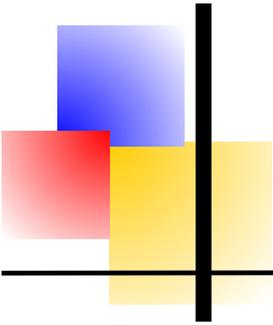
Overview

Session 6: Safe At Home 2

Session Objectives:

1. Participants will become familiar with and know the importance of at least three home safety devices.
2. Participants will be able to recognize and list a strategy to prevent at least one safety risk commonly found in each room in the home (kitchen, bathroom, living room, bedroom).
3. Each participant will be able to tell the difference between non-violent and violent toys, and will be able to name at least one toy that is age-appropriate for her child.





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Resources

Session 6: Safe At Home 2

Books:

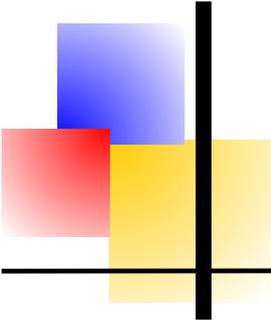
-  Just Me In the Tub By Gina & Mercer Mayer; Pub. Golden Books (18-24 mos.)
-  Tikki Tikki Tembo By Arlene Mosel; Ill. Blair Lent; Pub. Holt, Rinehart, & Winston (4-8 years old)
-  When I was Five By Arthur Howard; Pub. Harcourt (ages 3 and up)

Organizations:

To report an open fire hydrant: 311

Heat and Housing Complaints 311
New York City Department of Housing
215 West 125th Street





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Did You Know...

Session 6: Safe At Home 2



Children as young as 14 months will imitate what they see on TV.



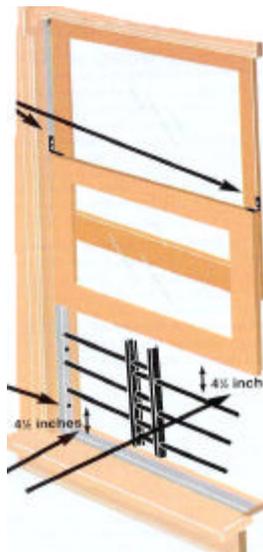
20% (1 in 5) of severe injuries due to falls among children in New York City from 1991-1998 occurred in the home (either from stairs or from furniture). Falls are generally more common in pre-school aged children.

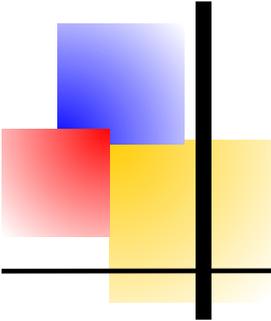


For four out of the top five leading causes of severe injury to children in Washington Heights— falls, poisons, burns/fire, and firearm injury— there are changes in the home environment that can be made to prevent injury from occurring or to lessen injury when it does occur.



Drowning is the third leading cause of unintentional injury-related death in the U.S.



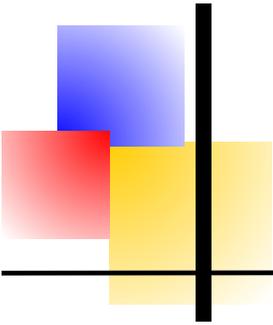


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Activities You Can Do with Your Child...

Session 6: Safe At Home 2

1. Walk around your home with your child, using the home safety checklist. Have your child try to spot the hazards you're looking for, and when s/he does, explain what the danger is and fix it.
2. Have your child color in the pictures included in this packet. As s/he finishes each one, talk about safety and what the pictures mean.



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Evaluation

Session 6: Safe At Home 2

Please tell us what you learned and how you liked this workshop by answering the following questions:

1. Please name one injury risk you might find in your kitchen, one in the bathroom, and one in the living room. How would you prevent each?

Kitchen: _____

Bathroom: _____

Living Room: _____

2. How much do you feel like you learned at this workshop? Did you learn...
(Please circle one)

A lot

Some

A Little

Nothing At All

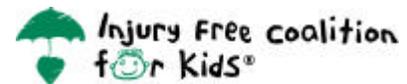
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| 3. Did the facilitator(s) make you feel comfortable during the workshop? | Y | N |
| 4. Did the facilitator(s) explain things well to the group? | Y | N |
| 5. Were you satisfied with the way the facilitator answered questions? | Y | N |
- If not, please explain. _____
- _____

6. Did you enjoy the activities the group did during the workshop? Y N

7. A. How old is your child that attends Head Start? _____

B. Please name one non-violent toy that would be appropriate for your child, based on his or her age. _____

8. What can we do to make future workshops on this topic better?





Safe Toys for Safe Children

Young children learn through play, imagination, and by example. Playing is necessary for children because it helps them develop healthy minds and bodies. They build strength and coordination, and learn how to follow directions, how to relate to others, to share, to cooperate, and to negotiate. Each child has his own way and speed of learning, so not all toys are safe or appropriate for all children. Here are some tips for choosing a toy that your child will be interested in but that will teach her the skills she needs to develop at her age.



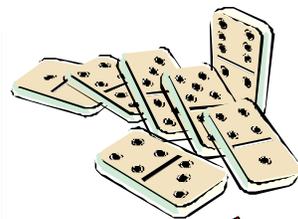
1. Interactive toys are encouraged. In order to learn, children need to explore their surroundings. When a child is watching TV or a movie or playing video or computer games, she is not developing her senses by discovering new things in her environment. The American Academy of Pediatrics therefore recommends that children under 2 years old do not watch TV at all, and that children older than 2 be limited to only 1-2 hours per day.



2. Violent Toys are DISCOURAGED. Children learn by watching and imitating, and it is difficult for them to know what is real and what is fantasy. It is important to avoid exposing your child to violent messages through the media (TV, movies, computer, video games) and through toys. Know what shows your child watches, and what games he plays. Encourage creative, peaceful play and educational, non-violent programs and movies.

Violent Toys: **(Not Recommended)**

- ◆ Present violence as the best way to settle disagreements
- ◆ Teach children that violence is fun, exciting, and harmless
- ◆ Make it seem like violence has no consequences
- ◆ Encourage aggressive competition



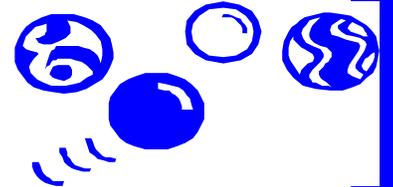
Nonviolent Toys:

- ◆ Teach children to build and create, rather than harm and destroy
- ◆ Allow children to develop their own creativity and imagination, rather than just imitate what they've seen on TV
- ◆ Encourage children to share, cooperate, and problem-solve together
- ◆ Help children learn new skills and talents



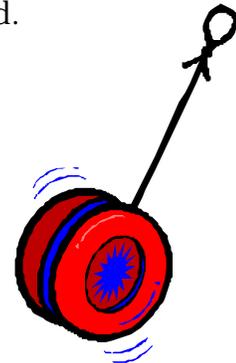
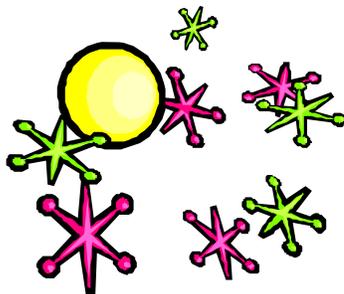
Safe Toys for Safe Children

3. Read the label and check the toy *BEFORE* you buy it. Follow the age advice on the package first. Then, check the toy yourself for small parts that a child under three could choke on— wheels on toy cars, or eyeballs and ribbons on stuffed animals, for example. Avoid toys with small parts or sharp edges, or that make loud sounds. Look for sturdy toys that will not have pieces fall off, and that have only big parts. Make sure that any electrical toy has the “UL” seal on the package, and that art supplies (crayons, markers, finger paint) are labeled “non-toxic.”



“Not suitable for children under 3 years”

4. Supervision is important. Always have your child play in a safe place away from traffic, walkways, stairs, and other dangerous obstacles. Show your child how to use a new toy. Watch your child as he plays, and, even better, play with him! Children need to learn on their own sometimes, too, and playing alone can be just as fun as with a friend. But parents should always supervise their children’s play, and share with them on a regular basis. It gives you a chance to spend more time with your child and the opportunity to help her learn about the world. It will also teach you about your child’s abilities, talents, interests, and view of the world.



5. Keep younger children’s toys separate from older children’s toys.

Remember: not all toys are right for all children. Your older child’s toys are probably too hard for your younger child— they might even be dangerous. Encourage your children to play creatively together, but **not** to use the older one’s toys together. Even though the older child is old enough to use her toys herself, she is not old enough yet to protect a younger child from hurting himself with them. Be especially careful with toys that have small or removable parts, or batteries. Young children can choke on small parts, and batteries can leak and cause burns.

