



STOP	Children are naturally explorative, especially in new places with new things. This makes it especially hard for parents as they need to be constantly vigilant to keep them safe.
STUDY	Read through the document with your child's primary care givers and discuss the hazards listed.
ACT	Discuss these hazards with your child in a serious but non-threatening manner in order to reduce your child's likelihood of getting injured or hurt.

1.0 Car Parks

Children are at great risk of injury or death in car parks and parking areas. Not only are children short in stature and cannot be seen by drivers, they aren't fully developed cognitively in relation to evaluating risk. A pedestrian struck by a car travelling at 30kph has a 95% chance of surviving, a 60% chance when struck at 50kph and only a 20% chance at 70kph.

Car Parks
Teach your children about road safety and make sure they understand that car parks are dangerous, just like roads.
Ensure your child's play area and the area you park your car are separate. Many children have been killed by a parent hitting their child while reversing out of the driveway.
Make sure your child is either in their car seat or in their pram close to the car, not walking around the car when entering or exiting a vehicle. If you don't have a pram, ask your child to hold your hand or shirt.
Slow down, speeding kills people, even in car parks.
Watch out for pedestrians, kids can move very quickly!
Set a good example for your child, take care and drive slowly. Cars should not exceed 20 kilometres per hour in car parks.

2.0 Lifts and Elevators

As lifts and elevators incorporate moving parts a child can easily get stuck or injured.

Lifts and Elevators
Hold your child's hand when entering or exiting the lift or put them in the pram.
Lifts are heavy machinery; they can cause injuries and are not designed to be used by children.
Don't let your child run in and out of lifts by themselves. This is how they can potentially get stuck.
Don't touch the doors, use the DOOR OPEN or DOOR CLOSE button if you need too. Watch your step, there may be a difference in floor height.
If lift doors don't open, ring the alarm button and wait, do not try and force the doors.
Take the stairs if there is a fire or other situation that could lead to a disruption in electrical service.
Stand clear of the doors, keeping clothes and carry-ons away from the opening.



3.0 Escalators

Approximately 2,000 children (most under the age of 5) are injured on escalators each year in the USA [Ref 5]. Most of those injuries are due to falls; the rest occur when a child's hands, feet, or clothing are trapped in the escalator's moving parts. While some wounds are fairly minor (such as cuts and bruises from falls), entrapment injuries can crush a child's limbs, even requiring amputation. See; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4H3zYMI6XU>

Escalators
Hold your child's hand so you can guide him or her on and off the escalator.
Explain to your child that escalators are not play equipment. Be extra vigilant with your child around escalators and do not let them out of your sight.
Tell your child to stand still and face forward. If they sit on the steps their fingers and feet are closer to the escalator's rotating parts.
Make sure that your child's fingers don't get stuck in the gaps of the escalator's handrail, and teach them to avoid the edges of steps, where entrapment can occur.
Make sure you or your child does not lean over the rail, they could get their head/hair stuck between an overhang and fall over the balustrade.
Got a stroller? Take the elevator instead. If you must take the escalator, take the child out of the stroller and hold them on the escalator, someone else must then hold the empty stroller on the escalator.
Check your child's clothing. Make sure his or her shoelaces are tied, and don't let them drag their coat or scarf on the ground.
DO NOT let your kids wear sandals, crocs, thongs or similar on escalators. These can very easily get caught on the escalator and pulled under with your child's foot attached!
If your child gets stuck, hit the escalator's emergency stop button (it's usually at the top and bottom of the escalator), or get someone to do it for you if you aren't near it.

4.0 Stranger Safety

Strangers can assist or harm your child, and it is important to not only teach them to stay close to you at all times, but also how to react if a stranger approaches them. For more information refer to the document "Stranger Safety Skills Guideline" at www.thesafetyeducator.com.

Stranger Safety
Share and talk openly as a family, even about uncomfortable issues.
Empower your child with honest and factual information about their bodies and let them know what is and what isn't appropriate touching.
Teach your child that their private areas (covered by their swimsuit) are just for him or herself and NO-ONE should try to touch them.
Most abuse and abduction cases are by someone the child knows – teach your child to say NO if they ever feel uncomfortable around anyone.
Never force a child to hug or kiss a relative. They need to understand that they shouldn't be forced to be affectionate and to trust their own feelings.



Stranger Safety
Share and talk openly as a family, even about uncomfortable issues.
Give your child the names (and phone numbers) of three trusted people who they can always confide in, especially if you are not available.
Have a “no secrets” rule in your family, especially if something makes your child feel nervous, scared or they get that “uh oh” feeling.
Never leave your child with a person you don’t trust, this is critical with children who are young and can’t communicate adequately.
Empower your child with honest and factual information about their bodies and let them know what is and what isn’t appropriate touching.

5.0 Falls

In 2004 in South East Asia three children per 100,000 died due to falls [Ref 4], with boys having a higher risk than girls.

Falls
Supervise your child and hold their hand at all times when walking near fall hazards (e.g. stairs, handrails at balconies, etc). Hold their hand when walking up and down stairs (see Section 3.0 for escalators). Especially in Malaysia, be careful of large open drains near roads!
When around balconies ensure your child does not hang over the handrail as there is a greater chance of falling if they become overbalanced.
Teach your child to NOT play near fall hazards (e.g. stairs, handrails, etc).
Falls on the playground are a common cause of injury. Check to make sure that the surfaces under playground equipment are safe, soft, and well-maintained (such as rubber, wood chips or sand, not dirt or grass)
Keep babies and young kids strapped in when using high chairs, infant carriers, swings and strollers.
Teach your children about the danger of open drains, they pose both a fall and drowning hazard. Ensure your child knows that they are not play areas.
Make sure your child wears protective gear during sports and recreation. For example, when skating, use wrist guards, knee and elbow pads, and a helmet.
Ensure that child products such as prams, baby walkers, high chairs, changing-tables and cots which do conform to international safety standards, otherwise your child may have a greater risk of injury.
When walking with your child be aware of spilled liquids, trip hazards and slippery sections due to rain – educate your child on how to notice these and avoid them.
Be aware of open windows and ensure your child cannot reach any windows.
Ensure that your child does not lean over hand rails when sitting or standing on a chair, they could fall over the balustrade.
Don't leave your child alone in a shopping cart.



Falls

In department stores ensure that your child does not accidentally pull heavy equipment on themselves (surprisingly common), including TV's and furniture.

6.0 Drowning

Drowning is a possibility in public areas, particularly at fountains, open drains and pools.

Drowning

Start swimming lessons early with your child. Swim with them and develop their confidence in the water.

All parents should learn CPR & First Aid for use in an emergency.

Never leave your child unattended around water. There is no room for compromise on this one. Babies can drown in as little as one inch of water.

Put the cell phone away, forget about all the other things you have to do and give young children 100 percent of your attention when they are near or around water.

Empty all tubs, buckets, containers and wading pools immediately after use. Including buckets in the laundry/bathroom. Store upside down and out of reach.

Keep toilet lids closed and use toilet seat locks to prevent drowning. It's also a good idea to keep doors to bathrooms and laundry rooms closed.

Parents have a million things to do, but learning CPR should be on the top of the list. It will give you tremendous peace of mind – and the more peace of mind you have as a parent, the better.

7.0 References:

1. KidSafe Act, available at: <http://www.kidsafeact.com.au/>
2. Otis World Wide, available at: <http://www.otisworldwide.com/d71-safetylev.html>
3. School Safe – Keeping Me Safe, Government of New South Wales, available at: http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/113822/keeping_me_safe.pdf
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5. McGeehan J et al, Escalator-related injuries among children in the United States, 1990-2002, Paediatrics. 2006 Aug;118(2):e279-85, available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16882773>
6. Safe Kids Worldwide, Falls, available at: <http://www.safekids.org/falls>
7. CDC, Child Injuries are Preventable, available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/safekid/Falls/index.html?source=govdelivery>
8. Mayo Clinic, Fall Safety for kids, available at: <http://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-living/infant-and-toddler-health/in-depth/child-safety/art-20046124>
9. Mayo Clinic, Drowning, available at: <http://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-living/infant-and-toddler-health/in-depth/child-safety/art-20044744>
10. CDC, Drowning, available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/safekid/NAP/overviews/drowning.html>
11. Safe Kids Worldwide, Drowning, available at: <http://www.safekids.org/watersafety>