

FALL 2023

CHILD INJURY PREVENTION NEWSLETTER



saskatchewan
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our goal is **healthy** children

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

PAGE

- 2** Back to School: Pedestrian Safety
Time for Harvest: Farm Safety
- 3** Something to Think About: Button Batteries
- 4** Upcoming Events
- 5** Fall Prevention Month
SK Child Injury Prevention Network
Child Injury in the News
Visit the Library: Recommended Reading



BACK TO SCHOOL: PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Children can gain independence as they grow by walking in their neighbourhood, but first they must learn to be safe. Teach children about pedestrian safety from a young age by walking together and talking about how to stay safe.

- Teach young children to hold an adult's hand whenever they are around moving vehicles, such as in a parking lot and when crossing the street.
- Children under the age of 9 have not developed the skills needed to cross the street safely by themselves. Their sight, hearing, height, perception, and mental development are not the same as an adults.
- Practice crossing the street with children often. Ask them to do each step with you, and discuss what you see when deciding if it is safe to cross.

HOW TO CROSS A STREET SAFELY

- 1 Stop at the corner.
- 2 Look left, right, and left again, looking for any vehicles approaching.
- 3 Look over your shoulder to see if any cars are coming from behind, and look forward to see if any cars are coming from in front of you.
- 4 Make eye contact with drivers so you both know that you see each other.
- 5 Make sure all cars have come to a complete stop before you start to cross the street.
- 6 Carefully cross the street, still looking left and right.



RESOURCE 4-021 CHILD PEDESTRIAN SAFETY FACT SHEET

This fact sheet provides tips and facts on child pedestrian safety.

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD.](#)

TIME FOR HARVEST: FARM SAFETY

Farms are unique because they are both a workplace and a home where children are often present. In recent years, many of us have come to understand the challenges of working from home with our children by our sides. When it comes to farms, children can be exposed to additional hazards like heavy machinery, livestock, and chemicals, putting them at risk of serious injury.

RESOURCE 4-600 – FARM SAFETY FACT SHEET

This fact sheet outlines ways to help prevent childhood injuries on the farm.

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD.](#)

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP KEEP CHILDREN SAFE ON FARMS:

- Separate children from the farmwork by installing a fenced play area or find off-farm childcare. Set rules about off-limits areas including around machinery, water, and animals.
- Keep chemicals locked up and out of sight and reach of children. Teach children to identify dangerous products with hazard symbols.
- Follow the [Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines](#) to assess children's ability to help with tasks on the farm.
- Always provide supervision for all children living on or visiting farms.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: BUTTON BATTERIES

Button batteries are small, shiny, coin-shaped batteries, sometimes called lithium batteries. Button batteries are very dangerous when swallowed or placed in the ears or nose. When swallowed, button batteries can badly burn internal tissues and organs in less than 2 hours. They are also a choking hazard.

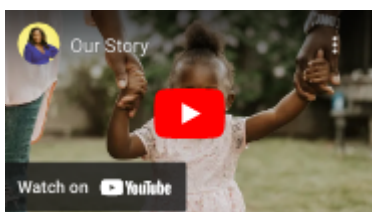
WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Check that all items with batteries, like toys, flashlights, and watches, have screws or strong tape to keep the battery compartment closed. Supervise children when they are using battery-operated items.
- Store loose batteries and battery-powered products that aren't being used out of sight and reach of children.
- Never allow children to play with batteries. Be aware of batteries and items with batteries when you're visiting places outside of your home.



GETTING HELP

- If you think a child has swallowed a button battery or has put one in their nose or ear, go to the emergency room right away. Do not wait until you see symptoms to get help.
- If it is quickly available, give 5-10 mL of honey on your way to the hospital IF the battery was swallowed in the last 12 hours, AND your child is 12 months or older and is not allergic to honey. Do not give honey if your child is vomiting or cannot swallow. Do not delay going to the hospital to get honey.
- Do not make your child throw up, and do not make your child eat or drink anything other than the honey.
- Immediately tell the admitting staff about the battery ingestion.



VIDEO: OUR STORY

Leslie Bangamba, a mother from Alberta, became a child safety advocate after her toddler ingested a lithium coin battery. To learn more, visit <https://www.lesliebangamba.com/about>.



RESOURCE 4-002 BUTTON BATTERY FACT SHEET

This fact sheet provides information about what button batteries are, how they can be harmful to the health of children, safety tips, and what to do if a child swallows a button battery.

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE HOME SAFETY WORKSHOP FOR PROFESSIONALS WHO SUPPORT FAMILIES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

1:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

This workshop will cover:

- injury risks in the home and opportunities to improve safety
- using harm reduction to support families living in a variety of situations
- engaging families in learning about child safety

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)



PARENTING MATTERS: HONOURING AND PROMOTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

OCTOBER 11 - 12, 2023

9:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M. (BOTH DAYS)

Parenting Matters is a two-day, in-person conference. This educational and experiential conference will provide information and skills to service providers who work with parents/caregivers and their children. Day 1 will explore how children's rights influence our personal and professional lives. Day 2 will focus on children's right to play.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)





FALL PREVENTION MONTH NOVEMBER 2023

Falling is a normal part of development as children explore their environment and learn to walk, climb, run, jump, and play. But some falls can cause serious injuries, even death. In Saskatchewan, falls are the number one cause of hospitalization due to injury in children and youth.

Follow @skprevention on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#), and search #fallpreventionmonth this November for tips on preventing childhood falls.

SASKATCHEWAN CHILD INJURY PREVENTION NETWORK – JOIN US!

Do you teach children and caregivers about safety? Is the prevention of childhood injuries important to you? The Saskatchewan Child Injury Prevention Network is a group where you can ask questions, engage in discussions, and share information and resources related to child injury prevention. For more information or to join, email Robyn Stewart at rstewart@skprevention.ca.

The language we choose is important. Using the term “accident” suggests that nothing can be done to prevent an injury. Most injuries are caused by events that are predictable, and thus, preventable.

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CHILD INJURY IN THE NEWS

[Rebooting the Farm Safety Message.](#) -The Western Producer

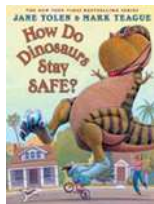
[Steady Rise in Vape Product Poisonings Among Kids Under 5](#) - U.S. News and World Report

VISIT THE LIBRARY: RECOMMENDED READING

Books available through Saskatchewan’s Public Library System



[Watch out! At Home](#)
by Claire Llewellyn



[How Do Dinosaurs Stay Safe?](#)
by Jane Yolen & Mark Teague



[Farm](#) by Emma Grange (Braille)

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