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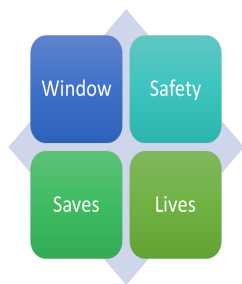
Windows are everywhere and young children love to look out of windows!

Windows are present in most buildings and have great benefits. Windows bring natural light and fresh air when opened, protect us from weather elements, may be an escape route for fire and also give us the ability to view our outside world while remaining cozy indoors. These are all positive attributes of windows.

Unfortunately windows can also pose danger if hazards are not recognized and remedied.

Two major dangers are:

1. Windows that do not have safety features to prevent a child from falling out.
2. Window coverings that have strings/cords that can cause strangulation hazards.



Many young children have been injured and died from these preventable window dangers. By identifying these window hazards and fixing them, you will be preventing injuries and saving children's lives.

Learn More About Window Safety

Are you aware that:

- ◆ **Window safety includes use of cordless window coverings and window guards or window stops** to help protect children from strangulation hazards and falling out of windows (visit the websites on the back for more information).
- ◆ **Other hazards can be present in and around a window** such as chipping paint, cracked or broken glass and holes or tears in window screens that can pose additional hazards to children such as lead poisoning, lacerations and insect bites.
- ◆ Injuries related to children falling from/out of/through windows contributed to nearly **5,000 injury cases treated in emergency departments between 2016-2018 (averaging ~1,600 injury cases per year)**.
- ◆ Approximately 62% of the window fall injuries seen in the 0-14 age group were **among children ages 0-4 years**.
- ◆ **Window screens are meant to keep out bugs.** They **do not** prevent children from falling out.

Keep in mind

- ◆ ASTM certified window stops or guards, when installed, should be equipped with a release mechanism to open the window fully when evacuation is needed or rescue is required.
- ◆ Opportunities should be provided to practice opening windows that have window guards or stops so that center staff and child development home providers know how to operate the safety release mechanism.

Check out:

For more information on window safety go to Caring for Our Children National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs Standard 5.1.3.2 <https://nrckids.org/CFOC/Database/5.1.3.2>

Window Safety is Everyone's Job

Reminder –It takes seconds for a child to fall out of a window opened more than 4 inches or get tangled in window blind cords or coverings. Constant supervision is required.



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"To Do" Window Checklist

Check all of your windows in your child care environment.



Are there any windows that open more than 4 inches?

- **If yes**, recommendations are to install ASTM certified window guards or ASTM certified window stops.
- Visit the listed resources below for additional safety information on preventing falls from windows.

Check all your window coverings and blinds.



Do they have cords or strings?

- **If yes**, CPSC recommendations are to have cordless blinds or cordless window covering. Visit CPSC on more safety tips if blinds cannot be replaced at <https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Window-Covering>

Check your windows both inside and out for any chipping or peeling paint.



Chipped or peeled paint found?

- **If found**, contact your local CCNC for assistance (see link below).
- Visit HCCI Iowa lead fact sheet for more information on lead poisoning. <https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/128/lead%20fact%20sheet-final%2002042022.pdf>

Check the windows for any cracks or broken glass and any sharp edges both inside and outside.



Are there any of these hazards?

- **If found**, fix immediately.
- Keep children away from the area until hazard is fixed.

Check the window screens for any tears or holes.



Are there any tears or holes?

- **If found**, fix immediately. Low cost screen repair kits are available in most home improvement stores.
- REMEMBER-Screens **DO NOT** prevent children from falling out of windows. Screens keep bugs out.

For more information on window safety, contact your local CCNC <https://idph.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants>

Window safety resource in Iowa: <https://www.unitypoint.org/blankchildrens/safety-store.aspx>

References & Resources-Visit these websites for more information on window safety.

◇ <https://www.hannahgeneserfoundation.org/> ◇ <https://www.cpsc.gov/> ◇ <https://www.nsc.org/> ◇ <https://www.safekids.org/> ◇ <https://nrckids.org/CFOC>