

# Safety Sounds

A Monthly Safety Bulletin From SPSG Safety Group

## September is Child Injury Prevention Month



**56,000**

Number of children injured daily

**22,000**

Number of young children who die as a result of injury every year

**60,000**

Number of young children who are permanently disabled each year

**\$347 Billion**

The cost of common childhood injury to the U.S. healthcare system each year

**298,000**

Number of hospitalizations of young children each year due to injury

**8,700,000**

Number of emergency room visits of young children each year due to injury

**10,600,000**

Number of visits to physician's offices of young children each year due to injury

**90**

Percentage of unintentional injuries suffered by young children in their homes that could have been prevented with simple detection and correction of the "danger".

**\$10-15**

Average cost of a life-saving safety device

From As Safe As Possible Campaign  
[www.assafeaspossible.org](http://www.assafeaspossible.org)

### The Facts

More than 53 million children in the United States spend almost one-fourth of their total waking hours in school or on school property. An estimated 10 to 25 percent of the more than 14 million unintentional injuries sustained by children ages 14 and under each year occurs in and around schools. Annually, 1 in 14 students suffers a medically attended or temporarily disabling injury at school. Public attention often focuses on school violence.

However, studies indicate that school-age children are nine times more likely to sustain an unintentional injury than to be the victim of an intentional injury while at school. Playgrounds are associated with the majority of injuries among elementary school students. Athletics, including both physical education classes and organized sports, account for the majority of injuries among secondary school students.

### Who is at Risk

- Children ages 10 to 14 account for 46 percent of school-related injuries.
- Boys are three times more likely to sustain a school-related injury than girls.
- More than half of all school-age pedestrians killed in school bus-related crashes are between the ages of 5 and 7.

### Prevention Tips

Implement an annual school safety checklist and regularly maintain all equipment and facilities. Train school staff in emergency first aid and CPR.

### Playground Safety

Avoid asphalt, concrete, grass and soil surfaces under playground equipment. Acceptable loose-fill materials include shredded rubber, hardwood fiber mulch or chips, and fine sand. Surfacing should be maintained at a depth of 12 inches and

should extend a minimum of 6 feet in all directions around stationary equipment. Depending on the height of the equipment, surfacing may need to extend further than 6 feet. Rubber mats, synthetic turf and other artificial materials are also safe surfaces and require less maintenance.

Always supervise children when using playground equipment. Prevent unsafe behaviors like pushing, shoving, crowding and inappropriate use of equipment. Ensure that children play on age-appropriate equipment.

### Sports Safety

Make sure the following are included in any sports program: proper physical and psychological conditioning, use of appropriate safety equipment, a safe playing environment, adequate adult supervision and enforcement of safety rules.

Match and group children according to skill level, weight and physical maturity, especially for contact sports.

### School Bus Safety

Teach children to arrive at the bus stop early, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching the street, watch for cars and avoid the driver's blind spot.

Ensure that children stay seated at all times and keep their heads and arms inside the bus while riding.

When exiting the bus, children should be taught to wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, exit from the front using the handrail to avoid falls, and cross the street at least 10 feet in front of the bus.

From National Safe Kids Campaign  
[www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)