




BC Children's Hospital, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, provides expert care for the province's most seriously ill or injured children, including newborns and adolescents. BC Children's is an academic health centre affiliated with the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, and the Child & Family Research Institute. For more information, please visit [www.bcchildrens.ca](http://www.bcchildrens.ca).

The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) plans, manages and evaluates selected specialty and province-wide health care services across BC, working with the five geographic health authorities to deliver province-wide solutions that improve the health of British Columbians. For more information, please visit [www.phsa.ca](http://www.phsa.ca).

**Media Contacts:**  
Communications  
BC Children's Hospital  
604-875-2301  
[comm@cw.bc.ca](mailto:comm@cw.bc.ca)

Stephanie Dunn  
Communications Specialist  
Child & Family Research Institute  
604-875-3885  
[sdunn@cw.bc.ca](mailto:sdunn@cw.bc.ca)

 Subscribe to our news feed using RSS.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

### Home product safety information from BC Children's Hospital for Safe Kids Week May 25-31 May 22, 2009

**Vancouver, B.C.** – Safe Kids Week is Canada's largest annual public awareness program, designed to help reduce the frequency and severity of preventable childhood injuries. This year May 25 to 31 has been proclaimed Safe Kids Week in British Columbia, and is focused on home product safety including trampolines, home playground equipment, and toys with magnets.

Jumping on a trampoline looks like a lot of fun but it is a high risk activity with the potential for significant injury. Between 2003 and 2007, there were 422 trampoline-related injuries treated at BC Children's Hospital. More than half of the injuries resulted in broken bones to the ankle, elbow, forearm or lower leg.

"Trampoline-related injuries occur most commonly among children between the ages of five to nine and an astounding 72 per cent will require medical attention," says Dr. Shelina Babul-Wellar, Associate Director & Sports Injury Specialist, BC Injury Research & Prevention Unit, Child & Family Research Institute (CFRI) and Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UBC. "Given the severity of the injuries, even under adult supervision, I would advise parents to think carefully before purchasing or allowing their children to use a trampoline. The Canadian Pediatric Society has recommended an all-out ban of trampolines for children because most severe trampoline injuries are not preventable, even with safety measures."

Swing sets and slides are a great way to spend time outside in the back yard with children. Home playground equipment is often lighter than those found in public playgrounds and needs to be properly anchored to prevent a tip over or collapse. Home playgrounds should also be surrounded by soft surfaces like sand or wood chips instead of grass to reduce the chance a child will be injured by a fall. Children under the age of five should not use playground equipment that is more than five feet (1.5 meters) high.

"Falls and strangulation are the main causes of injury to children on home playground equipment," says Karen Horn, Manager, Safe Start, the injury prevention program at BC Children's. "Children should take off their bicycle helmet before playing and parents should remove drawstrings and other cords from clothing so children don't get trapped or even strangled."

.../2

Small magnets found in toys, jewelry or on the fridge can be very dangerous if swallowed by a child and nearly half of all magnet-related injuries require medical treatment. Magnetic toys need to be inspected regularly to ensure that they are in good condition and toys with loose or broken magnets should be thrown away.

"Parents should always choose age-appropriate toys and ensure older siblings keep magnetic toys out of the reach of younger children," recommends Dr. Ran Goldman, Emergency Department Medical Director at BC Children's and Senior Associate Clinician Scientist at CFRI. "In addition to magnets being a choking hazard, a child could suffer serious internal injuries, possibly requiring surgery, should the magnets become attracted to each other inside the stomach and/or intestine."

More information on Safe Kids Week and home product safety is available online from the BC Injury Research & Prevention Unit [www.injuryresearch.bc.ca](http://www.injuryresearch.bc.ca) and Safe Start [www.bcchildrens.ca/safestart](http://www.bcchildrens.ca/safestart).