

Kidsafe News

Kidsafe Centre, 72 King William Road, North Adelaide, SA 5006

Ph: (08) 8161 6318

www.kidsafesa.com.au

Email: sa@kidsafe.org.au

President: Associate Professor Anne Johnson

Patron: His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR

Spring/Summer 2008

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Kidsafe News – Spring/Summer 2008.

With the warmer weather fast approaching, children will be spending more time outdoors and in and around water. Once again, the incidence of toddler drowning becomes a cause of great concern. **Supervision** of children around water is a **MUST** at all times – not just occasionally glancing at your child as you read or snooze. **Isolation fencing** around a swimming pool, with a self closing self latching gate that is in good working order, is imperative. In this edition of **Kidsafe News**, please read the article on the New Swimming Pool Regulations in SA.

Summer in Australia also means the inside of parked cars become very hot, very quickly. The temperature inside a parked car can be 30° higher than the outside temperature.

Children are far more at risk of suffering heat-related medical problems (e.g. heat stroke) than adults. They can become dehydrated, delirious, unconscious and may even die if left in parked cars in hot weather.

NEVER LEAVE CHILDREN ALONE IN A CAR!!

Wheels such as bikes, skateboards, roller blades and scooters are a constant favourite as gifts to children at Christmas. When purchasing one such gift, ensure that the product is appropriate for the child's development and motor skills. Safety equipment such as wrist guards, helmets, and knee and elbow guards will reduce risk of injury.

Learners have the highest rate of injury so ensure your child has a safe place to learn to use their gift. Finally, set rules about where and how the products are used.

Take care and keep safe this summer.

Helen Noblet

KIDSAFE SA INC SPONSORS

Kidsafe SA acknowledges and appreciates the support of the following sponsors.



Government of South Australia
Department of Health



Government of South Australia
Children, Youth and Women's Health Service



Clarke Brownrigg
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Accru+
Harris Orchard
Chartered Accountants + Business Advisor

Major Corporate Sponsor of Kidsafe SA Inc.



GLIDEROL
GARAGE DOORS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Chief Executive Officer's Message
- 2 New Swimming Pool Safety Regulations in SA
- 3 Toy Safety!
- 4 Kidsafe SA Playground Safety Services
- 5 National Kidsafe Day and Children's Week
- 6 Kidsafe SA services, resources & contact details

New Swimming Pool Safety Regulations in SA

New swimming pool safety regulations have come into effect from 1 October 2008 which requires all homes with pools to have up-to-date child-safety barriers in place before the property can be sold, no matter when the pool was built. Swimming pool barriers will need to be in line with the requirements which apply for pools built on or after 1 July 1993.



It will be the responsibility of the pool owner to make sure that current pool safety requirements are met prior to the settlement date, when selling a property with a swimming pool.

Under the Standards, all swimming pools must have a continuous safety barrier that is maintained by the pool owner and which restricts access by young children to the pool and the immediate pool surrounds. There are specific requirements in the Standards regarding fences, gates and any doors or windows which provide direct access to a pool:

Fencing must be constructed, such that:

- The outside of the fence is an effective barrier to young children
- It is permanent
- It does not provide access for young children to crawl under or to climb over by using foot/hand holds
- It is not less than 1.2 metres high

Gates to the the pool area must:

- Only swing outward from the pool area
- Be self closing from any position
- Be fitted with a latching device that is out of reach for small children (generally 1.5m above ground level)

Doors providing direct access from the house to the pool must be fitted with:

- A door closer and
- A self-latching device located at least 1.5m above floor level

Windows, which can be opened, are less than 1.2m above the floor and provides direct access from the house to the pool area, must have one of the following:

- Bars or mesh screens
- Mechanism limiting the size of the window opening or in some cases, a securely fixed flyscreen.

Pool owners will need to check with their local Council or Real Estate Agent regarding the need for approval of any upgrading of child-safety barriers.

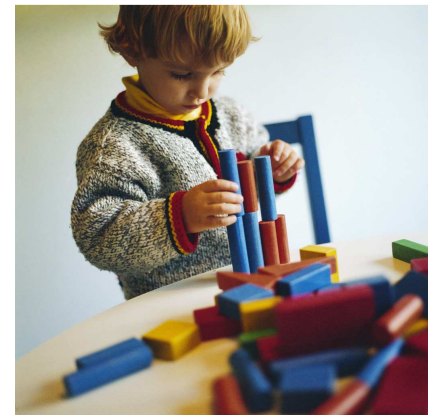
Toy Safety!

Toys have been in the spotlight over recent months with a number of highly publicised recalls affecting major manufacturers overseas and in Australia.

While many of these recalls have resulted from manufacturing problems and perhaps some failure of quality control processes, the clear message for anyone choosing toys for children this Christmas and holiday season is still to ensure that you know what you are buying and that it is suitable for the child.

When choosing toys for children:

- **Take notice of age recommendations** – these are based on child development and safe use. When buying for older children, consider younger children's access to the toy. A toy marked as not suitable for a child under 3 years may have small parts which young children could swallow.



- **Read the label and instructions** – check that the toy is non-toxic, non-flammable, recommends age suitability and has the distributor's contact details in case there is a problem.
- **Avoid explosive or projectile toys**
- **Inspect the toy** – examine the quality of the work and look for things that might be a danger for the child:
 - small parts – anything smaller than a ping pong ball is a choking hazard for a young child
 - Weak construction – seams that come apart; loose pieces such as eyes or buttons which can be a choking hazard
 - Long strings or ribbons – can strangle a child and should be less than 30cm long
 - Sharp edges or points

- Noisy toys can damage hearing
- Small ends on baby's toys – these can reach well back in the baby's mouth
- Moving parts which could pinch or trap little fingers.

Keep receipts and return faulty toys to retailers.
Be wary of toys sold over the internet.

Kidsafe SA Playground Safety Services

Approximately half of all injuries to children that present at Hospital Emergency are injuries associated with playgrounds. Half of all playground injuries occur in schools.

Kidsafe SA Inc., located in the Women's and Children's Hospital, is dedicated to the prevention of unintentional death and injuries to children. Our recent major focus has been on playground safety. The following services are offered through the Kidsafe SA office:

Telephone Advisory Service:

We offer a free of charge telephone advisory service concerning all aspects of child injury prevention, with a focus on playground safety.

Playground Safety Resource Kit:

The Kit provides information on the requirements of the latest Australian Standard for play equipment, AS 4685: 2004. Copies of the Resource Kit can be purchased from Kidsafe SA on the contact details below.

Playground Audit and Inspection Service (fee for service):

A full audit of the playspace is carried out, and equipment and undersurfacing is inspected according to the relevant Australian Standard. Once the audit is completed, the play space provider is issued with a full written report with photos and recommendations.

Kidsafe SA Inc. Women's and Children's Hospital

72 King William Road, North Adelaide SA 5006

Ph: (08) 8161 6318 Email: sa@kidsafe.org.au

www.kidsafesa.com.au



National Kidsafe Day and Children's Week

More Australian children aged 1 – 14 years die as a result of injury than from cancer, asthma and infectious diseases combined. In 2005, 35% of all deaths in this age group were due to injury.

Every day, around 180 children are admitted to hospitals in Australia as a result of injury. Some of these children will suffer permanent scarring or disability as a result of their injury. Tragically, around four children per week will die as a result of injury. **National Kidsafe Day** is a time to focus on the prevention of childhood injuries.

Preventing childhood injuries does not mean “wrapping children in cotton wool” but does involve supervision and creating and maintaining safer environments in which children can learn, grow and develop safety conscious behaviours.

Challenge yourself – make **National Kidsafe Day, 20th October**, an injury free day in your family and community.

Tips to reduce childhood injuries:

- Make sure all children are restrained appropriately for their weight and size when in the car
- Ensure children wear a well fitting appropriate helmet when riding bikes or using skateboards and roller skates
- Ensure swimming pools are properly fenced and gates close properly
- Supervise children in and around water
- Don't leave young babies and toddlers unattended on beds or other furniture
- Ensure play equipment has suitable impact absorbing surfacing under and around the equipment
- Provide a safe environment for children to learn and develop the skills needed to keep themselves safe from injury

Children's Week aims to bring world-wide attention to the need to understand, appreciate and care about *children*. **Children's Week** focuses on a variety of issues including the health, care, education, cultural, social and emotional needs of children and the importance of recognising their achievements.

Children's Week 2008 is an annual festival to be celebrated from **Friday 17th to Sunday 26th October**.

A diverse range of healthy lifestyle activities will be held throughout the state that focus attention of the wider community on children, in particular issues of health, recreation, sport, child care, education, cultural, social and emotional needs and the recognition of children's achievements.

For more information or to be involved in Children's Week please visit the website:

www.sachildrenweek.org.au

What services and resources does Kidsafe SA offer?

Kidsafe SA provides an education and information service for parents and carers of children on all aspects of child safety and injury prevention. We operate the Kidsafe Centre, where a range of brochures, Fact Sheets, DVD's and booklets are available. Information is available on a wide range of topics including playground safety and the prevention of burns and scalds, drowning, falls, choking, poisoning etc.

Kidsafe SA offers a 'Community Talks Program' on child safety and injury prevention to new parents and other interested community groups. Bookings are essential, contact Kidsafe SA on 8161 6318 for more information.

A wide range of safety products are available to inspect and purchase directly from the Centre. A mail and phone order service is also available.

Kidsafe SA also offers a playground safety and general child safety telephone advisory service on (08) 8161 6318.

Kidsafe SA contact details

Location and Postal Address

The Kidsafe Centre
Main Foyer, Kermode Street Entrance
Women's and Children's Hospital
72 King William Road
North Adelaide SA 5006

Phone

(08) 8161 6318

Fax

(08) 8161 6162

E-mail

sa@kidsafe.org.au

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9:30am – 4.00pm

Website address

www.kidsafesa.com.au

Contact us with your comments, concerns or queries on child safety issues on
(08) 8161 6318 or sa@kidsafe.org.au

Please send me the Kidsafe News electronically.

My e-mail address is:

Becoming a member of Kidsafe

I would like to make a tax deductible donation to Kidsafe SA. My details are provided below.

I would like to become a Member of the Foundation. My payment details are provided below. (\$44.00 for individuals, \$165.00 for organisations. Subscriptions are due and payable on 1st January each year).

Enclosed is a cheque payable to Kidsafe SA **OR**

Please charge my (tick)
in the amount of \$10.00 \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 Other

Visa

MasterCard

Cardholder name:

Cardholder number:

Signature: Expiry date: .../.....

Contact Details:

Name:

Address:

.....Post Code:

Phone number:E-mail:

