

# CHECK YOUR CHILD CARE CENTER: INSIDE & OUT

## PLAYGROUNDS

LOOK FOR SAFE SURFACING ON INDOOR AND OUTDOOR PLAYGROUNDS—This protects against head injuries from falls.



## WINDOW COVERING CORDS

CHECK THAT WINDOW COVERING CORDS HAVE NO LOOPED CORDS OR CHAINS—This helps prevent strangulation.



## CRIBS

PUT BABIES TO SLEEP ON THEIR BACKS IN CRIBS WITH FIRM, FLAT MATTRESSES; NO SOFT BEDDING; NO MISSING AND BROKEN PARTS.



## RECALLED PRODUCTS

CHECK THE HIGHCHAIRS, BABY WALKERS, INFANT SWINGS AND OTHER CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS TO SEE IF THEY HAVE BEEN RECALLED.



For more child care center safety tips, go to CPSC's Web site at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov), [www.recalls.gov](http://www.recalls.gov) and New Parents Network Web site [www.npn.org](http://www.npn.org).

NEW PARENTS NETWORK®

A non-profit organization founded in 1988



**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission**

CPSC hotline: 800-638-2772  
and 800-638-8270 (TTY)



Sign up to receive free NSN safety alerts and posters at

[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

# Child Care Center Safety Tips

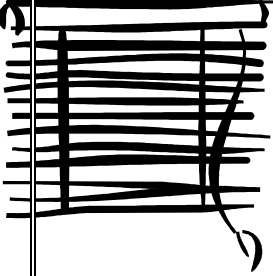
To help care givers and parents provide a safer environment for young children, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) offers the following safety tips checklist.

## Outdoor Playgrounds

Look for safe surfacing on playgrounds – wood chips, mulch, and shredded rubber are good shock-absorbing materials. In addition, regularly check playground surfacing and equipment to make sure they are well-maintained.

*Proper and well-maintained playground surfacing helps protect against serious head injuries from falls.*

## Window Covering Cords

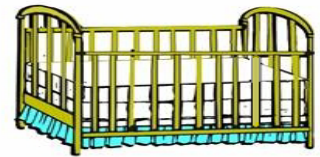


Examine all shades and blinds in your home. Make sure there are no accessible cords on the front, side or back of the product. Use cordless window coverings in all homes where children live or visit. If buying new, cordless window coverings is not an option for you, contact the Window Covering Safety Council at [www.windowcoverings.org](http://www.windowcoverings.org) or call 1-800-504-4636 to obtain a free repair kit and install it properly to make your window coverings safer.

*Safety devices for window covering and curtain cords help prevent strangulation in the loops of these cords.*

## Cribs

Babies should be put to sleep on their backs in cribs with firm, flat mattresses and no soft bedding (like quilts, pillows, and pillow-like toys). Cribs should meet current safety standards, be assembled correctly, and have mattresses that fit snugly.



*Cribs without soft bedding and without loose, broken, or missing hardware help prevent strangulation and suffocation.*

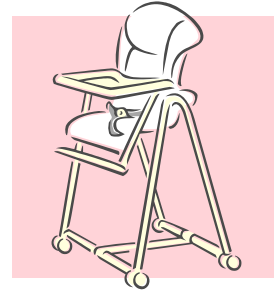
## Drawstrings

Be sure there are no drawstrings around the hood and neck of children's outerwear clothing. Other clothing fasteners – like snaps, zippers, or hook and loop fasteners (such as Velcro) – should be used.

*Outerwear without drawstrings – which can catch on playground and other equipment – helps prevent strangulation.*

## High Chairs

Check that children in high chairs are always restrained by safety straps around the waist and between the legs. Most high chairs also have a hard plastic restraint between the legs. Straps and restraints can prevent children from climbing out of high chairs or slipping between high chair trays and seats, risking head entrapment.



*Safety straps and other restraints help prevent falls – and strangulations – associated with high chairs.*

## Changing Tables

Children can easily fall off changing tables – which is why you should never leave children unattended on changing tables. When using a changing table, always keep one hand on the child.

*Always keep one hand on a child when using changing tables to help prevent injuries associated with falls.*

## Recalled Products



Check that no recalled products are used in your home or child care center. Recalled products have caused burns, broken bones, strangulations, and electrocutions.

*Recalled products can pose a risk of injury or death. Displaying a list of recalled products in child care centers reminds both caretakers and parents to remove or repair potentially dangerous children's toys and products.*

## **For More Information**

To learn more about product safety, go to CPSC's Web site at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) or call CPSC's hotline at 1-800-638-2772. To receive a free subscription of "Safety News," a quarterly, hard copy publication of CPSC announced recalls, please call our toll-free Hotline. To join CPSC's list for instant e-mail notification of recalled consumer products, go to [www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp](http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp). To find out more about all products recalled by the federal government, visit [www.recalls.gov](http://www.recalls.gov).