

### Facts about injuries to children in daycare settings

- Injuries have replaced infectious disease as the leading health problem for children.
- The total number of childhood injuries that result in death surpasses the next nine causes of death totaled in the pediatric population.
- The frequency of injury increases in the population of children greater than one year of age.
- Though there are many types of injuries such as cuts, scrapes, bruises, bites and burns, etcí but falls are the most prevalent form of injury.
- Children in day care centers, between the ages of 0 ó 5 years of age, are more likely to be injured and hospitalized due to falls compared to other types of injuries.
- There are different types of falls, such as falling from furniture, slipping and tumbling.
- The younger the child, the more likely the child or infant is to fall head first because of the head-to-body ratio and poorly developed protective reflexes.
- The risk for a particular type of fall largely depends on the age and developmental level of the child.
- Along with behavioral and developmental features of infants and children, the lack of supervision or proactive child care giving also contributes to child injury.
- Certainly accidents happen. However, while many accidents are considered non-intentional, some do involve a degree of negligence because the accident is not random and is preventable.
- Preventable injuries occur in child care environments where foresight on the part of the caregiver is not effectively utilized when reasonably expected to be present.
- Child caregivers appreciate that behavioral attributes of children contribute to the risk of injury to varying degrees.
- Children with behavioral characteristics that are difficult to manage are at an increased risk for injury as compared to their more docile child counterparts.
- There are some recent studies that demonstrate when caregiver supervision is not adjusted to meet the behavioral needs of an active child then the risk for injury in a childcare setting is increased.
- Certain child attributes call for an adjustment in the intensity of caregiver supervision.
- Studies show that caregiver supervision and an effective strategy that keeps the child in the caregiver's view reduces the frequency of injury.
- It is also known that a lapse in supervision where the child is not in view correlates with a higher incidence of child injury.
- Even if the caregiver is highly conscientious there remains an increased risk for injury during intervals when the child is not in view.
- Whether a child caregiver is regarded as highly conscientious or not-highly conscientious, the risk for injury to a child is still higher when the child is not in the view of the caregiver.
- Close supervision contributes directly to reduced events of injury.

- Keeping the child in view allows for the added feature of foresight on the part of the caregiver while providing child care services.
- Effective foresight facilitates anticipation of risk and execution of an appropriate response by the caregiver in a given situation.
- Child care workers should possess a skill set that integrates problem-solving abilities, child management skills with knowledge of child development, first-responder skills, nurturing qualities, appropriate disciplinary skills, social and stress management skills while interacting within groups and maintaining the ability to respond effectively to environmental cues.
- Most importantly remember that not all states require background checks or specific training for child care workers.
- Child care centers may be open and fully operational, but that is not a true measure of adherence to reasonable safety precautions or compliance with mandatory safety requirements.