

Accident Prevention



ACCIDENTS CAUSES & PREVENTION



DEFINITION OF ACCIDENT

- An accident is an event, independent of human will, caused by an outside force acting rapidly and resulting in physical or mental injury. The occurrence of injury is unintended.

- WHO

- About 90% of all accidents are preventable by safety measures.

PREDISPOSING SITUATIONS OF ACCIDENTAL INJURY IN CHILDREN

- Curious, interested, hyperactive, and daring child has more chance of accidents than lethargic and uninterested one.
- Boys tend to have more accidents than girls because they are more daring.
- Accidents are more common in aggressive, stubborn, poor concentration and unsupervised children.
- Only children and oldest child in a family have fewer accidents than others because of their close supervision and having been taught how to avoid dangerous situations.

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PREDISPOSING SITUATIONS OF ACCIDENTAL INJURY IN CHILDREN Contd...

- Accidents are increased in overcrowded home.
- Change in daily routine of child or parents may cause accidents.
- Lack of outside play facilities is responsible for more home accidents.
- Accidents may occur frequently if the parent is having poor children, ignorance, carelessness, or lack of awareness about safety measures for accident prevention or lack of supervision of children.

COMMON ACCIDENTAL INJURY IN DIFFERENT AGE GROUP

- **Infant:** falls, burns, cuts and injury, suffocation, foreign body aspiration, ingestion in the ear and nose etc.
- **Toddlers and Preschoolers:** falls, burns, cuts and injuries, foreign body aspiration, drowning and near drowning, poisoning, electrocution, suffocation and strangulation, bites and stings, vehicle or road-traffic accidents, sports injury etc.
- **School-age children and adolescents:** sports injury , falls, electrical or instrumental injury, road-traffic accidents, bites and stings, drowning etc.

MAJOR TYPES OF ACCIDENTS

Accidents requiring medical interventions:

- Drowning, burns (especially in homes), falls, cuts and wounds, agro industrial injuries, animal bites (dogs, snakes), poisoning (insecticides, rodenticides, kerosene oil, drug, acids etc.)

Accidents requiring surgical interventions:

- Head injuries, burns, soft tissue injury (faciomaxillary injuries) fractures, trauma to abdominal organs etc.

Accidents involving eyes:

- Bow and arrow play, gulli-danda play, fireworks, stone throwing, broom stick injury, sharp edged toys, balls, shuttle corks, fist fighting, fall from height, knife or scissors or needle injury, chemical or thermal injury.

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Accidents involving ENT:

- Foreign bodies, roadside accidents, corrosive poisoning (kerosene oil), sudden exposure to noise causing sudden deafness, physical injuries (slap), mechanical injuries with sharp objects, strangulation from cloths being entangled in rotary machines and automobiles, kite-flying causing laryngotracheal cut, loss of pinna etc.

Road traffic accidents (RTA):

- Careless road crossing, reversing car, playing in streets with vehicular traffic, allowing children to stand in a car or to sit in driver's lap.

PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Forethought
- Time
- Discipline



ACCIDENT PREVENTION IN THE HOME

| Hazards | Preventive action |
|--|---|
| <p>Articles: Matches, firearms, knives of any type, workshop and garden tools, nail files and other manicuring implements.</p> | <p>Lock out of reach</p> |
| <p>Swallowables: Broken toy parts, pins, needles, jewellery, hairpins, bulletin board magnets, erasers, small toys such as jacks</p> | <p>Store safely</p> |
| <p>Dangerous substances and poisons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Aspirin and other medications in pill or liquid form. •Detergent solutions, floor wax, insecticides, household cleaners, paint, glue, kerosene, gasoline. •Poisonous plants | <p>Child-proof containers</p> <p>Safety packaging Lock out of reach</p> <p>Place out of reach</p> |
| <p>Situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Stoves, fireplace, barbeque pit, and other heat sources. | <p>Remove child from the area or observe carefully</p> |

Venetian blinds



ACCIDENT PREVENTION IN THE HOME

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| Hazards | Preventive action |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Handles of cooking utensils •Venetian blinds •Unplugged electrical outlets •Play pen or crib •Major appliances •Plastic wrappings | <p>Turn handles away from edge of the stove.</p> <p>Cut open the loop cords which can strangle a child.</p> <p>Plug then with blanks or cover them with heavy tape.</p> <p>Slots must be no more than 2.5inches apart. Mattress should fir snugly in crib.</p> <p>Unplug when not in use.</p> <p>Destroy</p> |
| <p>Falls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Stairs •Windows •Electrical cords •Bath tub | <p>Secure gate top and bottom.</p> <p>Secure bar, close or screen.</p> <p>Place out of the way so child cannot trip.</p> <p>Install adhesive rubber appliques on bottom of tub.</p> |

ACCIDENT PREVENTION AT HOSPITAL

- Catches on the side gates of the crib should be in good condition and the gates should always be up when the child is in bed.
- Falls from cribs, youth beds, wheel chairs, high chairs, stretchers and other conveyances can be prevented with safety restraints.



- Medicine cabinets must be locked when not in use.
- Identifying the child while giving medications with Identiband.
- Instruments and solutions should be kept in cabinets or on shelves.
- Pajamas, night gowns and slippers should fit in properly.
- Closure of safety pins.
- Prevent running of children in the hospital, because of danger of falling.
- Toys should be unbreakable, not having small parts, and no toxic paints.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION AT HOSPITALcontd

- Infants and small children should be prevented from playing with medical instruments.
- Isolations techniques.
- Nursing bottles should never be propped up.
- Hot water bottles must b tightly stoppered and covered before being placed near child's body.
- Thermometers usage.
- Electrical outlets.
- Electrical extension cords.
- Young children never be carries off the unit because of the danger of falling.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TO VARIOUS AGE GROUPS

- **Infants**
- **Toddlers and preschoolers**
- **School children and adolescents**



NURSING RESPONSIBILITIES

- Health education
- Anticipatory guidance
- Provision of safe environment
- Assessment of child's characteristics
- Assisting in medical care
- Emergency care
- Public health measures
- Awareness
- Participate in policymaking and research activities