

Safety First....

June 2008

Parenting *Rules!*

Childhood injuries happen so quickly! The best way to prevent them is to be extra aware of what your kids are doing and where they are. This issue of *Parenting Rules* offers several tips on keeping your kids safe.

Baby on board....

**Children age 13 and under
should always ride
in the back seat!**

According to AAA, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and injury for children in the U.S. It is a parent's job to safely secure their child in each time they ride in the car.

Next time you buckle up your kids remember the following:

- Your child should be strapped in **every time** he/she rides in a car, regardless of how far you are driving.
- **Never** put a rear facing infant seat in the front seat of a vehicle with an airbag that can not be de-activated.
- Use a child safety seat that **fits** your child's age and size.
- Check for **hot metal buckles** before you strap your child in.
- Be sure the safety harness and straps are **not twisted**.
- Seat belts should fit across the child's **lap**, not the stomach.
- Shoulder straps **should not** cross the child's face or neck. Never put the shoulder strap under the child's arm or behind his/her back.
- Carefully **read the manufacturers instruction** so that you will install the seat correctly.



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Riding Safely....



As important as buckling up is, it isn't the only safety issues parents face when they take their kids for a ride.

To keep you and your kids safe while riding in the car, keep the following in mind:

- **Never** allow your kids to stick any part of their body out of the car windows. They can be seriously injured by an object outside of the car.
- Many cars have **child safety locks** on the passenger doors that only allow the doors to be opened from the outside. Using these locks will stop children from opening the door while the car is in motion or before you are ready for them to get out.
- Noisy kids or a crying baby can distract parents and cause driving mistakes that lead to serious injury or death. **If your children are distracting you, pull over to a safe place and take a rest.** Tend to your baby's needs or have a talk with older kids about passenger safety. Taking a rest will help you to refocus.
- **Always buckle-up**; no matter how far you are traveling. Using your seat belt will set a good example for your kids and teach them a lifetime habit that could someday save their lives.

For more information of riding safely, contact:

AAA Southern New England
110 Royal Little Drive
Providence, RI 02904

<http://secure.aaasne.com/public/news/trafficsafe/occupro.html>

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Window Safety....

Kids can't fly, keep them safe!

Thousands of children are killed or seriously hurt every year from falling out of windows.

When you open your windows this summer to enjoy the fresh air, follow these safety guidelines to prevent such a tragedy.



- Open windows from the top
- Screens are not strong enough to keep a child from falling out the window
- Install window guards that you can purchase at your local hardware store
- Keep furniture away from windows so kids won't have something to climb on
- **Teach your child to stay away from the windows**

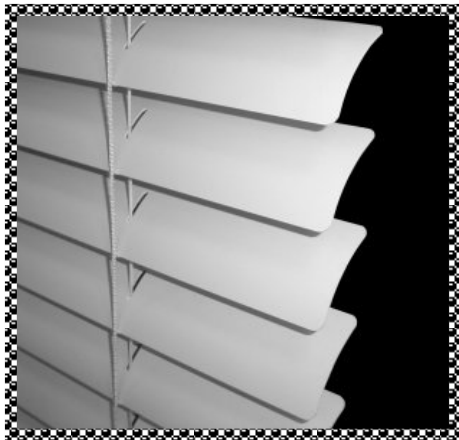
For more information on window safety contact:
The National Safety Council
1211 Spring Lake Dr., Itasca, IL 60143
(630) 285-2128 www.nsc.org

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Window Coverings....



According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission approximately 12 infants and young children die each year from accidentally strangling in window cords.

The Window Covering Safety Council recommends you only use cordless window products in your children's bedrooms and replace all window coverings in the home made before 2001 with safer window treatments.

Remember to always follow these basic window-cord safety rules:

- **Move furniture** and toys away from windows
- **Install cordless window coverings** in children's bedrooms or other windows that are accessible to children
- Keep window blind **cords out of reach** of children, tie them up out of reach
- **Lock cords** into position when they are lowered
- **Permanently anchor** continuous-loop cords to the wall
- **Replace** older dangerous window coverings
- **Never allow your child to play with the window blind cords**

For information on how to make your window blinds safer, contact:

Window Covering Safety Council

355 Lexington Avenue Suite 1500 New York, NY 10017

212-297-2100 www.windowcoverings.org

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Resources for Parents...

Governor's Office on Highway Safety

For a list of car seat safety check points

(401) 222-3024 www.dot.state.ri.us/programs/safety

National Auto Safety Hotline

1-888-DASH-2-DOT

Safe Ride News Publications

P.O. Box 38, Edmonds, WA 98020

(800) 403-1424 www.saferidenews.com

Rhode Island State Police

311 Danielson Pike, Scituate, RI 02857-1907

(401) 444-1000

<http://www.risp.state.ri.us>

SAFE KIDS Rhode Island

55 Claverick Street

Providence, RI 02903

401-444-5018

ABOUT PARENTING RULES! E-NEWS...



Prevent Child Abuse
Rhode Island



Rhode Island

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Please share this information with the
families in your programs. Thank you!