



Summer Safety

Summer is here and kids are heading to the pool, riding bikes, playing in the backyard, going to camp and just having fun. But summer is also time to be more watchful, as your children encounter more risks this time of year. Over 11,000 Mecklenburg County children under the age of 18 visit the emergency room annually due to accidents and injuries, follow these safety tips for a safe summer.

Summer Safety for Toddlers and Preschoolers

- **Dogs:** Nearly 1,000 visits to the emergency department last year were to treat dog bites-with most occurring in children under the age of four. Never leave your child alone with any dog.
- **Windows:** Move furniture away from windows, install window guards and cover or shorten blind cords. Don't allow children to play unattended near unlocked and open windows.
- **Water:** Children can drown in only an inch of water. Ensure your pool has the correct fencing to secure it when it is not in use and clear your yard of possible areas of standing water. Also make sure every child wears a personal floatation device while boating or swimming. Never leave your child unattended near water.
- **Playgrounds:** Falling is the number one reason for emergency department visits among children. Ensure your playground and the playgrounds you visit are safe for climbing, swinging and playing and never let your child play on equipment unsupervised.
- **Lawnmowers:** Never allow your child to ride on a lawnmower. Children under age six should not be in the yard while it is being mowed.
- **Cars:** Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for people ages 1-44. For every ride in the car, each child who is less than eight years old and 80 pounds must be secured correctly in an appropriate child safety seat. To find locations where you can have your seat checked for free, visit www.safekidscharmeck.org.
- **Grills:** Keep matches or grill lighters out of children's reach to avoid unintentional fires. Also, keep children well away from the grill to avoid burns. For more information, visit www.charlottefire.org.
- **Bikes:** Be sure your children have bike helmets and wear them correctly every time they ride their bikes. Discuss boundaries and the rules of the road with your children.

For more information visit: www.usa.safekids.org, www.aap.org or www.carolinasinjuryprevention.com.