Latest Warnings

New mandatory play yard standard. On June 26th, 2012, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) unanimously adopted a new safety standard for play yards. Play yards serve as both a playing and a sleeping area for children in homes, child care facilities, and for travel. There have been more than 20 recalls of play yards since 1985.

The standard has resulted from Danny's Law, named after Danny Keyser, which requires CPSC to set mandatory standards for juvenile products. Danny died when a play yard collapsed on his neck at his licensed childcare facility and strangled him to death. He was 16-months old.

The new standards will greatly improve play yard safety. However, a provision that addresses the misassembling of bassinet attachments has been removed after complaints by manufacturers. KID will continue to work with CPSC and other advocates to ensure the adoption of this provision. Read more.

Maryland announces proposed ban on crib bumper pads, effective next summer. Following the city-wide Chicago bumper pad ban, Maryland has proposed a ban which, if implemented, will make Maryland the first state to make the sale of crib bumper pads illegal starting June 21, 2013. Although the ban would not apply to vertical bumpers that wrap around each individual crib rail or mesh crib liners, KID and the Maryland Department of Health still discourage the use of those products.

KID stresses that babies should sleep alone, on their backs, and in a bare safe crib. Read more.

Maryland announces proposed ban on crib bumper pads, effective next summer. Following the city-wide Chicago bumper pad ban, Maryland has proposed a ban which, if implemented, will make Maryland the first state to make the sale of crib bumper pads illegal starting June 21, 2013. Although the ban would not apply to vertical bumpers that wrap around each individual crib rail or mesh crib liners, KID and the Maryland Department of Health still discourage the use of those products.

KID stresses that babies should sleep alone, on their backs, and in a bare safe crib. Read more.

New ASTM standard and Savannah's playground. A new ASTM standard has been published for baby monitors after, sadly, 7 babies have lost their lives. These infants include Savannah, a beautiful 10-month old baby who was strangled to death after she learned to pull herself up and grabbed her monitor cord. As a result, baby monitors must meet specifications and be labeled with a strangulation hazard warning.

In honor of Savannah, on June 23rd the 5K run/walk Illinois Race for the Family included Savannah's Playground, a place for families to play and rest. KID will also join Savannah's parents at a playground in DC on July 28th.

Cords on baby monitors pose a serious hazard. It is advised to buy cordless baby monitors to keep children safe. Read more.

Continued on page 3
MSDS Reminder

Because we work with young children and are constantly cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and toys, it is good for us to be reminded that all items used for cleaning, disinfecting, and deodorizing are to be considered “hazardous chemicals”. Back in 1970, the U.S. Department of Labor set forth some standards and regulations that must be followed by all employers, regardless of company size. Unfortunately, these regulations are often overlooked. Below are some highlighted points to help familiarize you with the regulations. For more detailed information, see their web site at: http://www.osha.gov/

- Employees have both a need and a right to know the hazards and identities of the chemicals they are exposed to when working. They also need to know what protective measures are available to prevent illnesses and injuries related to chemicals from occurring. MSD Sheets also contain information on first aid measures, however, it is strongly suggested that prior to the use of any chemicals, the appropriate health department, doctor, or poison control center be contacted to ensure the accuracy of first aid instructions listed on the MSD Sheet.

- Chemical manufacturers, importers, and distributors are all required to provide the appropriate MSDS to employers upon each shipment or request. In other words, if your center orders cleaning supplies from a company, you are already receiving the MSDS in the mail. Each time you order, the manufacturer must ensure that you are provided the most current MSDS. However, if you are purchasing cleaning products from the store, you will need to call or write the manufacturer for their most current MSDS. Another option for those who are needing MSD Sheets for store-bought chemicals would be to use the following MSDS web site http://www.msdsssearch.com/DB LinksN.htm

- Containers of hazardous chemicals must be labeled, tagged, or marked with the identity of the material and appropriate hazard warnings. This means that no chemical, of any kind, can be poured into unlabeled spray bottles, jars, or bowls. In addition, this means that simply writing the name of the chemical on the new container is not sufficient. It must be properly labeled with the identity of the material and appropriate hazard warnings. The chemical company or distributor often provides the necessary labels at no cost.

- Employers must have a written policy in place that requires all employees to read and understand the information presented in the MSD Sheets. This is ideally accomplished at an annual staff meeting where the sheets are read, discussed, and explained. In addition, we recommend that each staff member sign a statement acknowledging that they have been appraised of the chemical hazards within the workplace, potential hazardous effects, physical and chemical characteristics, and recommendations for appropriate protective measures. Employees need to also understand the first aid measures necessary in the event of an emergency and where to find the appropriate MSD Sheet. All MSD Sheets must be kept current on an annual basis.

- MSD Sheets must be readily accessible to employees when they are in their work areas during their work shifts. The employees must have access to the MSD Sheets themselves. This means that all MSD Sheets and first aide instructions are kept in one place, readily accessible in the event of an emergency. Some employers keep the MSD Sheets in a 3-ring binder in a central location, with each chemical under a tab labeled with the chemical’s most common name.

The above information is not meant to scare you, but it is necessary for all of us to be in compliance with the regulations of the federal government.
The Purposes of ACCN:

1. To affirm, encourage and empower all engaged in the weekday ministry to children.
2. To provide opportunities for professional and spiritual growth.
3. To provide networking opportunities for Seventh-day Adventist Child Development Centers.
4. To set certification standards for child care providers.
5. To foster unity between all areas of child development within the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
6. To encourage the incorporation of Early Childhood Education in the nurture and outreach programs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
7. To foster working relationships with the world church, unions, conferences, local churches, and schools.
8. To encourage surveys and research in the area of Child Development and Early Childhood Education in cooperation with the North American Division.
9. To counsel with the North American Division and General Conference in the development and review of programs and strategies for Child Development.
10. To provide guidance and resources to training organizations, colleges, and universities.
11. To advocate the hiring of Early Childhood specialists at all organizational levels of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
12. To develop working relationships with other Early Childhood Education organizations.
13. To encourage child care centers to obtain national accreditation.

Warnings (continued)

Dangerous magnetic toys. High-powered, spherical magnets, such as Buckyballs, are injuring children and teens. Packaged for adults as desk toys, children are managing to get their hands on these magnets, whose inhalation and ingestion have led to serious injury. The magnets are capable of intestinal blockage, blood poisoning, and, when more than one is swallowed, have the power to produce small holes in the stomach and intestines. Internal damage caused by these magnets have been compared to that caused by bullet wounds, according to ER physicians.

What KID wants to see:
- CPSC examine the injury data and determine if products are incorrectly age graded for teens and adults
- Purchasers warned of the dangers of magnet inhalation/ingestion
- Stress the risk of using the magnets to mimic piercings
- The need for immediate medical attention when magnets are swallowed or inhaled must be better communicated to the public

The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) has announced plans to develop a standard to address these products. Read more.

Safety first!

Job Opportunities

Door Prairie Christian Preschool
A registered ministry of the La Porte Seventh-day Adventist Church, Door Prairie Christian Preschool is seeking an experienced teacher for the preschool program. The preschool offers class for children 3 years old and Pre-K for those who are 4 by August 1st.

This teaching position is part-time, with no benefits. Degreed teacher preferred. (But all applications will be considered.)

Part-time daycare staff are also greatly needed.

Applications will be accepted through July.

Resumes can be emailed or mailed to Lori Thordarson, La Porte Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1480 Boyd Boulevard, La Porte, IN 46350. Or applicants may contact Lori via her cell phone: 219-380-9067.

Do not delay! This may be YOUR opportunity.

Join ACCN

ACCN website
Bleach Alternative

What is the best and most cost effective way to sanitize surfaces and toys in an early childhood center? By using a hospital grade sanitizing solution. No longer do we recommend the use of bleach and water: it is too dangerous and too expensive. Aside from the problems of decolorizing and fabric dissolving, bleach has a very short life span and is a volatile substance.

When early childhood centers use bleach and water mixtures as a disinfectant, it must be used and replaced after only one hour of exposure to air. The disinfecting power of bleach is compromised by contact with air as well as soap and other cleaning agents. After several hours, even though the bleach product can still be smelled, it is no longer effective as a sanitizing solution.

Smelling bleach, of course, is not safe for anyone of any age, especially if one is vulnerable due to asthma or allergies. Mixing bleach with hot water and/or other cleaning agents can create harmful fumes. These fumes are very dangerous to human airway passages, lungs, esophagus and throat. Repeat exposure can result in serious illness, long-term illness or death. For additional information on the dangers of using bleach in early childhood settings, read the San Francisco Asthma Task Force report on “Bleach Exposure in Child Care: Strategies for Elimination or Reduction.”

There are several alternative products to the bleach and water mixture. They are typically sold through distributors who sell their products to hospitals and other health-care and nursing facilities as well as large businesses. However, in November of 2009, during the NAEYC conference in Dallas, Texas, the Adventist Child Care Network came across a company who services child care centers exclusively.

Introducing: The Barrington Company

The Barrington Company is a Christian based company with high principles and core values. Building trustworthy and long lasting relationships with customers is very important. They put effort into getting to know customers, learning their individual needs, and serving them well. Barrington provides quality disposable products at a price that will fit most budgets. The Barrington Company is dedicated to unparalleled customer service. They listen to each customer’s needs and desires and use this information to introduce new products.

Probably one of the most important items sold through The Barrington Company is a product called Arena 891 Disinfectant. A bleach and water mixture alternative, it is a cleaner and disinfectant in one product. It is the only product currently on the market that is EPA registered to kill CA-MRSA! (According to the USHHS website, CA-MRSA is a type of staph that is resistant to antibiotics. The most serious form of CA-MRSA infection causes a severe, rapidly progressing and life-threatening skin infection.) This can be used on changing tables, tabletops, toys, playground equipment, and many other places; a great multi-use cleaner/dischinfactant. It has a light mild fragrance, is color safe, remains viable for 1 month after it has been mixed with water and comes in goof-proof, pre-measured cartridges for mixing.

Please contact The Barrington Company. They would be more than happy to answer any questions, send samples and brochures absolutely free or take an order.

The Barrington Company
800-828-2229