

2.26 PLAYGROUND STRANGULATION ALERT



Health
Canada Santé
Canada

Playgrounds – Danger of strangulation

Each year in Canada, thousands of children get hurt at playgrounds playing on slides, monkey bars or swings. Some children have died when their clothing or drawstrings got caught on playground equipment or fences. Some children have died when they became entangled in ropes or skipping ropes attached to playground equipment. Loose clothing, hoods, scarves, drawstrings, mitten cords, ropes and skipping ropes can strangle a child!



Safety Tips

- Remove cords and drawstrings from children's hoods, hats and jackets.
- Tuck in all clothing that can get caught on playground equipment.
- Wear a neck warmer instead of a scarf.
- Take off bicycle helmets before using playground equipment. Bicycle helmets can get trapped on equipment and strangle a child.
- Make sure children do not tie ropes or skipping ropes to slides and other playground equipment.
- Supervise children on the playground.
- Teach children how to use playground equipment and play safely.

If you want to know more about playground safety please call toll free:

Safe Kids Canada at 1-888-723-3847 or visit their web site at: www.safekidscanada.ca.

For more information, contact the Product Safety Bureau, Health Canada at:

Vancouver, British Columbia (604) 666-5003
Edmonton, Alberta (780) 495-2626
Calgary, Alberta (403) 292-4677
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (306) 975-4502
Winnipeg, Manitoba (204) 983-5490

Hamilton, Ontario (905) 572-2845
Toronto, Ontario (416) 973-4705
Ottawa, Ontario (613) 952-1014
Montreal, Quebec (514) 283-5488
Quebec City, Quebec (418) 648-4327

Moncton, New Brunswick (506) 851-6638
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia (902) 426-8300
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Advisory

Potential strangulation from drawstrings on children's outerwear

OTTAWA - Health Canada is warning Canadians about the potential danger of children being seriously injured or strangled by drawstrings on children's outerwear. Drawstrings, especially on snowsuits, jackets and sweatshirts, can become caught on playground equipment, fences or other objects. Recently, a child in New Brunswick narrowly escaped serious injury when the drawstring on her coat became caught in a school bus handrail.

Parents and caregivers are advised to check all children's outerwear for loose drawstrings and:

- Remove all drawstrings from the head and neck area of children's outerwear.
- At the bottom of children's outerwear, either remove the drawstrings completely or trim the exposed length to 8 cm, with the garment fully stretched.
- Make sure the end of the drawstring is free of knots, loops or toggles, as they can get caught.
- To keep it from slipping through its channel, make sure the drawstring is tacked to the garment.
- Ensure that new purchases of children's clothing have alternative closures to drawstrings. These include elastics, buttons, velcro, or snaps.

For further information, consumers should contact the nearest Health Canada Product Safety Office listed below:

- Burnaby (604) 666-5003
- St. John's (709) 772-4050
- Edmonton (780) 495-2626
- Longueuil (450) 646-1353
- Calgary (403) 292-4677
- Montréal (514) 283-5488
- Saskatoon (306) 975-4028
- Québec (418) 648-4327
- Winnipeg (204) 983-5490
- Moncton (506) 851-6638
- Toronto (416) 973-4705
- Halifax (902) 426-8300
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