

Summer Safety Reminders from Child Care Regulation

Child Care Regulation (CCR) loves to see children enjoying the relaxing and fun days of summer. However, you must remain vigilant to ensure the safety of all children. Please review the tips and resources below and reach out to your [local CCR office](#) if you have any questions or need additional assistance.

Water Safety

If your operation is going to participate in water activities, on-site or off-site, it is critical that caregivers understand the risk associated with these activities. **Drowning is silent.** Never leave children alone around water and always make sure to do the following:

- Complete Water Safety Training before taking children to the swimming pool. All employees must obtain water safety training prior to accompanying a child to a swimming pool.
- Non-swimmers, weak swimmers, and children with certain special needs must wear a properly fitted and fastened Type I, II, or III and/or Level 70, 100, or 150 US Coast Guard-approved life jacket, in good repair, when required. (Note: An administrative penalty is associated with this requirement)
- Stay focused. Caregivers must provide close and constant visual supervision to all children in or around water.
- Always have a certified lifeguard on duty when swimming in more than 18 inches of water.
- Caregiver ratios for water activities are determined by the youngest child in the group.
- Be prepared. Caregivers included in ratio for swimming must be able to swim and be ready to do so in an emergency.
- Teach children to always ask permission to go near water. Store water toys away from water when not in use so they don't attract children.
- Have a phone nearby and plan for emergencies. Keep emergency telephone numbers handy and stay current in CPR and first aid training.

Transportation Safety

- Never leave children unattended in the vehicle. Use reminders that a child is in the back. Leave something you need in the back seat, like your purse, phone, or leave a stuffed animal or toy in the front seat.
- The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) recommends:
 - rear-facing car safety seats until 2 years or more;
 - forward-facing car safety seats from the time they outgrow rear-facing seats for most children through at least 4 years of age;
 - belt-positioning booster seats from the time they outgrow forward-facing seats for most children through at least 8 years of age; and
 - lap and shoulder seat belts for all who have outgrown booster seats.
- Keep car keys out of children's reach.

Transportation Safety Cont.

- Walk and check the inside of the vehicle, both in and under each seat and utilize your vehicle's child safety alarm, if applicable.
- Always lock car doors and trunks, even in the garage or driveway.
- Talk to children about the dangers of playing around cars and watch them closely when cars are present.

Preventing Heatstroke Resources

Children are more vulnerable to heatstroke than adults so please share the following links to tip sheets and resources with parents and providers to help remind everyone to *look before you lock*.

- [Tips to Avoid Child Heatstroke](#)
- [Preventing Heatstroke: What to Do If You See a Child Alone in a Car](#)
- [How Much Do You Know About Preventing Child Heatstroke](#): Take a quiz to learn how to prevent child heatstroke in cars.
- [Steps to Prevent Heatstroke](#)
- [Where's Baby: Look Before You Lock](#): National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration educational campaign
- [Children in Hot Cars | CPS Board](#): Free 10-minute training created by the National Safety Council

Poison Safety

Plants- If you are allergic to poison ivy or poison oak, touching it can cause blisters or irritation on your skin. Remember the phrase, "leaves of three, let it be".

Snake Bites- If a poisonous snake bites you or someone you know, immediately call the [Poison Help Line 1-800-222-2222 or 911](#).

Spider Bites- Most spider bites do not cause harm, but some are [Venomous Spiders at Work | Outdoor | CDC](#) and can cause people to become ill. Beware of female black widow and brown recluse bites.

Emergency Preparedness

Several types of natural disasters can occur in Texas during the summer including hurricanes, flash flooding, and wildfires. Check out the following resources to ensure your operation is prepared in the event of an emergency: [American Red Cross](#), [Ready.gov](#), [TexasReady.gov](#), [Save the Children](#).