

Children's environment and safety

Simple steps can make a big difference

Typical accidents in this age group

Outdoor accidents are the greatest threat for children in this age group. Drowning accidents and traffic accidents are especially serious. Some common injuries caused by incidents and accidents are:

- Cuts and scrapes
- Fractures and sprains
- Head injuries
- Burns and acid burns
- Dental injuries

What can you do if an accident occurs?

Burns

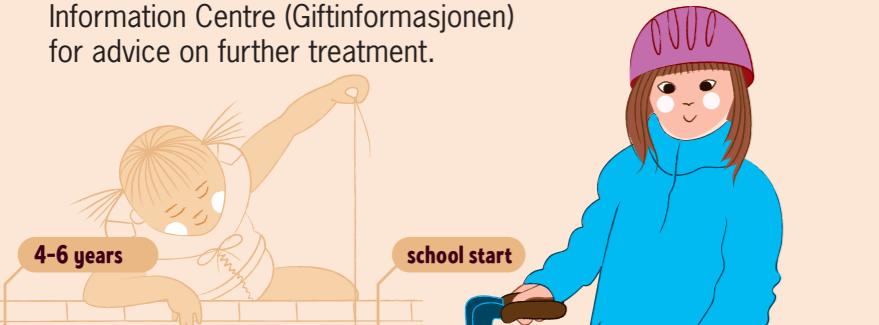
Rinse immediately with cold water, approximately 20°C, for at least 15 minutes. You may contact a doctor for advice on further treatment.

Poisoning

Call the Norwegian Poisons Information Centre (Giftinformasjonen), tel.: 22 59 13 00 (open 24 hours a day).

Chemical spills

If a chemical is splashed in the eyes or spilled on the skin, rinse immediately with running water. Contact the Norwegian Poisons Information Centre (Giftinformasjonen) for advice on further treatment.



Dental injuries

- Find the tooth and put it back in place in the mouth. If this is not possible, keep the tooth wet in the mouth or soaked in milk
- Save tooth pieces and keep them wet
- See a dentist as soon as possible
- Knocked-out milk teeth should not be put back in again

If your child falls from a height, gets something stuck in the throat, has a broken bone or almost drowns, you should monitor the child to check for alertness and breathing. If your child is not breathing, start cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR – heart and lung first aid). If your child is not awake but breathing, place him or her in a stable position on the side (modified recovery position). When such serious and life-threatening symptoms occur, call 113. For less threatening symptoms, contact a doctor or the local emergency service (legevakts) for advice on further treatment.

You will find important information on children and first aid in the Norwegian-language brochure "Når barnet skader seg".

Useful information:

- *Giftinformasjonen* (Norwegian Poisons Information Centre): tel.: 22 59 13 00 (24 hours a day): www.giftinfo.no
- *Helsedirektoratet* (Norwegian Directorate of Health): www.helsedir.no/miljo_helse
- *Statens forurensningstilsyn* (Norwegian Pollution Control Authority): www.sft.no (on chemicals in childrens daily lives)
- *Statens vegvesen* (Norwegian Public Roads Administration): www.vegvesen.no (on bicycle and car safety)
- *Statens strålevern* (Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority): www.nrpa.no (on solar and other types of radiation)
- *Direktoratet for samfunnssikkerhet og beredskap* (Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning): www.dsbs.no (on product safety)
- *Nasjonalt folkehelseinstitutt* (Norwegian Institute of Public Health): www.fhi.no (e.g. on indoor climate)

If you have any questions about child safety, contact your maternal and child health centre (helsestasjon).



Relevant publications:

- "Når barnet skader seg", IS-2372, on children and first aid (Norwegian language only)

Other English-language brochures in this series:

- Children's Environment and Safety, 0–6 months, IS-2307 E
- Children's Environment and Safety, 6 months – 2 years, IS-2308 E
- Children's Environment and Safety, 2–4 years, IS-2309 E
- Children's Environment and Safety, 4–6 years, IS-2310 E

These brochures are available in Norwegian, English, Urdu, Arabic and Somali.

All the brochures can be ordered from:

trykksak@helsedir.no
Tel.: 24 16 33 68
Fax: 24 16 33 69

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LANDSGRUPPEN AV
HELSESØSTRE NSF



IS-2311 E [ENGELSK]

Helsedirektoratet
Norwegian Directorate of Health

0–6 months
6 months – 2 years
2–4 years
4–6 years
school start

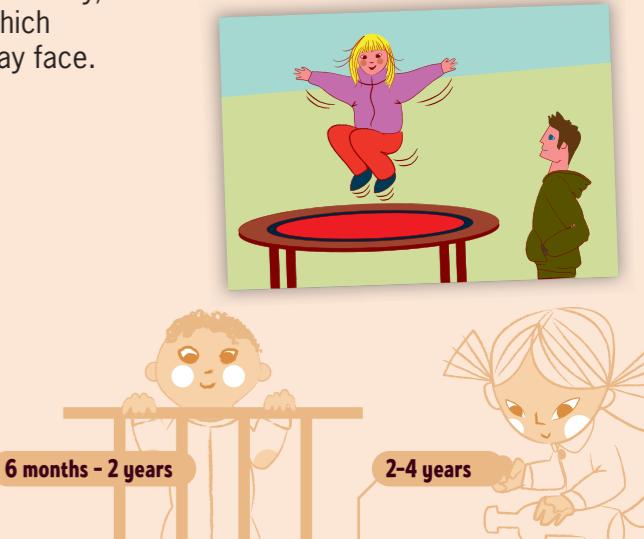
This brochure addresses the most common situations in which injuries and accidents occur to children in the period after they have started in school. For some, this advice might seem quite obvious, but in our busy day-to-day lives it may be a challenge to remember it all. This brochure may serve as a list of things to keep in mind.

As homes and neighbourhoods vary, it is important to consider which particular risks your child may face.

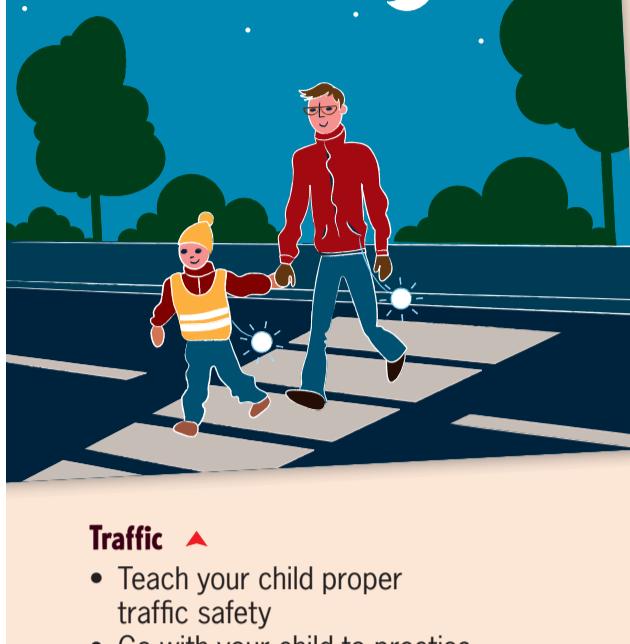
Accidents are one of the greatest threats to a child's health and life. Some accidents and injuries are unavoidable, but fortunately there are many things you as a parent can do to make your child's environment safer.

As children grow, the risks change Starting school is a major change in a little person's life. Your child will get to know many new children and will get involved in activities taking place farther away from home. Starting school will often mean that your child needs to move more in traffic.

At this age children are gaining better control over their movements and master many new situations and activities. However, it is important to remember that they are still dependent on the support and guidance of their parents. Children may, for example, have problems directing and controlling their attention in traffic.



What can you do to improve your child's environment and safety?



Traffic ▲

- Teach your child proper traffic safety
- Go with your child to practise walking and biking to school
- Use reflectors



Bicycles ▲

- Two-wheelers must be suitable for the size and skills of your child
- Use bicycle helmets
- The bicycle must have brakes on both the front and back wheels. Pedal brakes are recommended for the back wheel as they make it easier for the child to brake
- Practise bicycling with your child. Assess the traffic situation where you live and your child's skills before you allow him or her to bike alone. Generally, children should not bike alone in traffic until they are 10–12 years old



Cars ▲

- Securing children in the car with child restraints is mandatory
- Use approved child safety restraints appropriate for your child's size and weight
- Follow the installation instructions for the car seat carefully and make sure that it is securely fastened
- Your child should not sit in the front seat if the car has airbags. Airbags are designed to protect adults
- To minimise injuries in the event of an accident, the shoulder section of the seat belt must cross in front of the shoulders and the lap section of the belt must sit under the hip bone



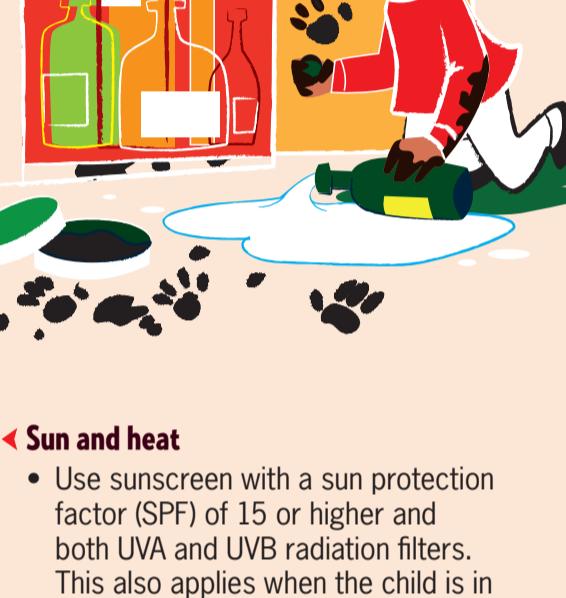
Drowning ▲

- Your child should never be left alone when bathing or playing near water, but let your child get used to water as early as possible
- Use life jackets in boats and when playing on docks or near deep water
- Your child should learn to swim



Poisoning and acid burns ▶

- Store medicines, detergents, chemicals and tobacco out of reach of children
- Everything should be kept in its original packaging so the child does not mistake it for something harmless
- Child-resistant packaging is no guarantee that the child cannot open it
- Teach your child not to eat plants and mushrooms without checking with an adult



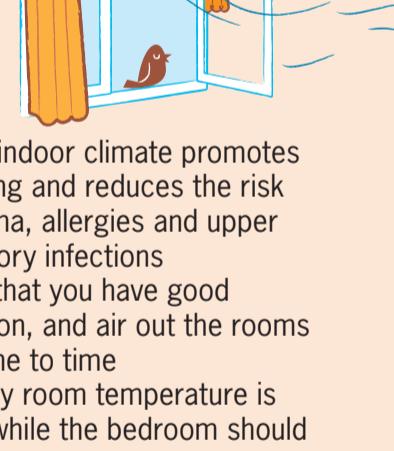
Dressing for cold weather ▶

- Avoid cotton clothes as the innermost layer; use wool, for example
- Make sure there is enough room in the shoes – tight shoes give cold toes
- Cover the neck and head as these areas have a large amount of heat loss
- Check often that your child is dry and not too cold or too warm



Sun and heat ▶

- Use sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher and both UVA and UVB radiation filters. This also applies when the child is in the shade, due to indirect radiation
- Protect your child with a sun hat, sun glasses and light clothing. Coloured clothes, red for example, provide better protection against the sun than pale colours
- Take breaks from the sun in the middle of the day
- Try to keep your child's activities in naturally shaded areas
- Make sure your child has enough to drink



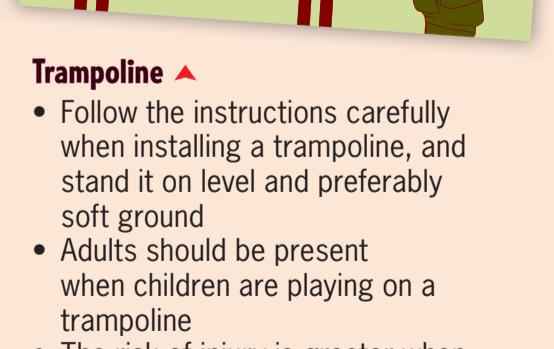
Indoor climate ▶

- A good indoor climate promotes well-being and reduces the risk of asthma, allergies and upper respiratory infections
- Ensure that you have good ventilation, and air out the rooms from time to time
- A healthy room temperature is 20° C, while the bedroom should have a lower temperature
- Correct humidity is important. For example, avoid drying clothes in the bedroom and living room



Trampoline ▲

- Follow the instructions carefully when installing a trampoline, and stand it on level and preferably soft ground
- Adults should be present when children are playing on a trampoline
- The risk of injury is greater when several children are jumping at the same time
- Do not jump on a trampoline when it is wet



Illustrasjoner: Cecile Ellefsen Design: Tank Produsert hos RK Grafisk i 10.000 eks. (2010)

IF AN ACCIDENT OCCURS:

Poisons Information Centre:
(Giftinformasjonen)

22 59 13 00

Doctor/local emergency service:
(Lege/legevakten)

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Medical Emergency:
(Medisinsk nødtelefon)

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