

Prepared for SAFE Security Customers

Back to School Safety Checklist

As millions of parents, children and teens prepare for school, it is wise to review safety guidelines before their first day in class. There is a wealth of back to school safety information online. Many sites refer to safety tips recommended by the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC). Brainclass.com provided additional helpful information.

"Take a few minutes to check your child's school, childcare facility and playground for hidden hazards we don't always think about during this busy time of year," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "Use our free checklist to make sure your children head back to school safely."

Hidden hazards include the following:

- **Playgrounds** - Check the surfaces around playground equipment. There should be a 12-inch depth of wood chips, mulch, sand or pea gravel, or there should be mats made of safety-tested rubber or fiber material to prevent head injury when a child falls
- **Drawstrings on Jackets and Sweatshirts** - Remove drawstrings on hoods or around the neck. Cut drawstrings at the waist or bottom of jackets and sweatshirts to 3 inches.
- **Loops on Window Blind Cords** - If the windows in your home, childcare facilities or schools have blinds, cut the loop on two-corded horizontal blinds, and attach separate tassels to prevent entanglement and strangulation in window blind cords. Vertical blinds, continuous loop systems and drapery cords use looped cords to function. Do not cut these loops. Instead, install a permanent tie-down device. To obtain free tassels and tie down devices call (800) 506-4636.
- **Bike Helmets** - Since a growing number of kids are riding their bikes to school, make sure they always wear their helmet. All bike helmets manufactured or imported for sale in the United States are required to meet the new federal safety standard set by CPSC.
- **Soccer Goals** - Anchor soccer goals into the ground to prevent them from tipping over and crushing a child.
- **Recalled Products** - You and your kids can get up-to-date recall and product safety information by checking out CPSC's web site on your home or school computer. Sign up to get free recall notices by FAX, [e-mail](#) or regular mailing by calling CPSC's hotline or writing to CPSC, Washington, D.C. 20207.

Here's a Back to School Safety Checklist from www.brainclass.com



Phone Numbers

With today's technological world, kids need to know more phone numbers than ever before. This is especially true for kids that are from split families. To make things a little easier, print a business card (all information needs to fit inside 3-1/2" wide by 2" high (leave 1/4" margin all the way around). with everyone's numbers that the kids might need. Don't forget that you can use both sides.

When you are done, have the cards laminated. If the kids are old enough to carry a wallet, it will slip inside easily. If they are younger, you can punch a hole in the card and lace it into their school backpack, so they will not lose it.



Car Safety

Please be sure everyone is properly seat-belted into your vehicle before putting the car into gear. Younger kids should be in car seats or booster seats, and they should sit in the back seat if they are under 12 years old. For a complete set of safety tips check our website.

Drop kids as close to the school as possible. If the school has a drop off area, be sure to use it. Do not set a bad example by dropping them in a dangerous location. If the kids are young, wait until they are in the school yard or building before you leave.

Bike Safety

Please teach your kids that bikes have rules to follow, just like cars. Each year there are children injured or killed, because they are riding on the wrong side of the street, they fail to stop at a stop sign, or they fail to follow some other rule of the road. Don't forget their helmets! It's not only safer, it's the law.



Walking to School the Safe Way

Plan the route your kids are going to take if they are walking to school. It is important to try to minimize the number of streets they have to cross. Keep it as simple as possible. Then, do a dry run with your kids. You should have them do it at least once on their own before the first day of school, so they feel comfortable. Teach your kids to keep away from vacant lots, fields, and any other locations that have few people around.

Also, *please make sure that your kids do not walk alone*, especially if they are young. Creeps look for the kids that are all alone. It is much more difficult to deal with a bunch of kids, so they normally do not do it.

Family Meeting Spot

Make sure to pick out a family meeting spot that can be used in case of an emergency. Parents with kids in middle school and high school should make sure they do not forget this. When there is a crisis, things get confusing. If they know where they are supposed to meet you, you will both be more calm when you need it.



Stranger Safety

Teach your kids not to talk to strangers. They should not accept presents or rides from them. Also, be sure to pick a family password. This word will be used if someone different is picking them up from school, sports, or other locations. It should be a weird word, like spaghetti. One that someone would not be able to guess. If too many people have heard your word, change it!

After School Safety

If the kids are alone after school for a short time make sure that they follow some basic guidelines:

1. They should keep the doors locked.
2. They should never tell someone on the phone that there are no adults at home.
Teach them to say that you can't come to the phone right now.
3. Post a list of emergency phone numbers near the phone.
4. Have them call you at work or on your cell phone as soon as they get home.
5. Set up rules on what kind of food they can fix. Younger children should never use the stove without adult supervision.
6. Set up guidelines on who they can have over (if anyone) and what they are allowed to do.



Quick Links:

SAFE Customer Service Contacts:

Email: customercare@safesecurity.com

Telephone: (800) 669-7779

SAFE monitoring service payment address:

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We wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy and safe summer. If you have any questions, contact SAFE customer care at customercare@safesecurity.com or call (800) 669-7779.

Regards,

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