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INTRODUCTION:

 Accidents are the main cause of injury and even death in children. People only relate accidents to traffic accident or accidents in outdoor activities. However, as a matter of fact, the place where people regard as the safest place-home-hides many "hazards". The main cause of home accident is general negligence of safety at home. This slides aims at providing some measures in preventing home accident, first aid measures and how to call for help.

DEFINITION



WHO defined...

An accident is an event independent of human caused by outside for acting rapidly and resulting in physical mental injury.

Special Needs For Accident Prevention

Children

- Never leave children alone in the kitchen Protect Toddlers with safety latches Supervise children at all times when they are "helping" you in the kitchen
- Model safe work habits for children

Common injuries occur

The most severe injuries are associated with heat related accidents and falls from a height.

Older children are more likely to sustain fractures than younger counterparts.

Younger children have a higher percentage of burns and scalds as well as poisoning and ingestion accidents.

- Most happen between late afternoon and early evening, in the summer, during school holidays and at weekends
- Factors such as stress, death in the family, chronic illness, homelessness or moving home increase the likelihood of the child having an accident
- Some happen when the usual routine is changed or when people are in a hurry
- Distractions and inadequate supervision are often the cause of accidents
- Poor housing and overcrowded conditions lead to increased numbers of accidents
- Some accidents are caused by lack of familiarity with surroundings, for example, when visiting friends or relatives, or in holiday accommodation.

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- ✤ 0-4-year-olds have the most accidents at home.
- Boys are more likely to have accidents than girls.
- Childhood injuries are closely linked with social deprivation. Children from poorer backgrounds are five times more likely to die as a result of an accident than children from better off families - and the gap is widening.



- Cause:
- Unstable gait of the toddler, presence of objects on floor, lack of supervision, curiosity of the children, etc.

- Keep floors free of toys and obstructions.
- Exercise close supervision when toddler learns to walk.
- Never leave babies unattended on raised surfaces.
- Check constantly floor surface for wear and tear.
- Keep floor dry.
- Always ensure bed-rail of the baby cot is raised when the baby is in the cot.
- Always use a securely fitted safety harness in a pram, pushchair or highchair.
- Windows and doors must be locked to avoid misadventure by children.
- Avoid placing "step-stones" such as a chair next to a window.
- Take extra care to avoid side-turning of a baby chair.

• First Aid:

- Don't panic. Call for help if necessary.
- Check the level of consciousness of the infant/child.
- Examine the child if airway is clear (e.g. can talk, cry or not); if breathing is adequate and circulation is normal (observe colour of the face, depth and rate of breathing).
- If breathing and circulation are normal, check for any other injuries on the body.
- If bleeding occurs, ensure there is no foreign body in the wound. Apply direct pressure to stop bleeding by covering a clean gauze on it and add pressure on the gauze by your hand. Elevate the injured limb.
- If deformity is seen on the injured part, do not move it and call for help immediately.



- Cause:
- Accidental swallowing of foreign body, strangulation, covering of head by blankets, accidental suffocation by pillow while baby sleeps in a prone position, neardrowning etc.

- Choose toys appropriate to the age of children. Avoid toys with detachable small parts.
- Ensure small objects are kept out of reach of children.
- Pull cords on curtains and blinds should be kept short and out of reach of children.
- Strings and plastic bags should be kept out of reach of children.
- Foldable furniture should be properly placed and locked. Instruct children not to play with them.
- Instruct children not to play while eating.
- Never let children use milk bottle by themselves without adult's supervision.
- Never use pillow for baby under one year of age. Do not use large and heavy blanket. Never let the blanket cover the face of children during sleep.
- Avoid sleeping with baby on the same bed.
- Never leave children alone in a bath tub or basin filled with water.
- Bucket filled with water must be covered and keep children away from it.

First Aid:

- Do not panic. Remove the cause from the patient.
- Call for help immediately.
- Perform CPR if necessary.

- Cause:
- Scald by hot water, burn by fire, touch on hot objects such as cooking utensils, etc.

- For adults, never hold a hot drink/food and a child at the same time.
- Ensure milk, congee or other foodstuff is at a reasonable temperature before feeding.
- Ensure proper fence or door is installed at the entrance of kitchen. Such must be closed at all times. Instruct children not to go into kitchen.
- While cooking, pay extra attention to the stove fire and the cooking utensil. Turn the pan handle away from the front, and close to the wall.
- When running a bath for a child, always test water temperature beforehand.
- All hot objects including an iron or containers with hot matter must not be placed near the margin of a table. Avoid using tablecloth. Matches and lighters should be placed out of reach of children.
- Instruct children not to wander around when adults are preparing for a meal.
- Install proper cover to sockets.
- Warn children never play with fire.

• First Aid:

- Do not panic. If necessary, call for help.
- Examine the child if airway is clear (e.g. can talk, cry or not); if breathing is adequate and circulation is normal (observe colour of the face, depth and rate of breathing).
- If breathing and circulation are normal, check for the burn or scald injures on the body.
- Rinse the injury site with tap water for about 10 minutes. If the child feels chilled, stop rinsing.
- Cover the injury site with a sterile gauze. Dress with bandages.
- Never apply toothpaste, soysauce or other ointments on the injured sites.
- Do not puncture any blister.
- Do not tear off any burned clothing that sticks on the injured site.



• Cause:

• Food poisoning, accidental swallowing of drugs, detergents, insecticides, etc.

- Keep medicines and chemicals out of sight and reach of children, preferably in an isolated, locked cabinet.
- Always store chemicals in their original containers with appropriate labels.
- Never tell children drugs are "sweets" as this may give a wrong idea to children.
- Ensure toys and dining utensils bought meet the international standard, e.g. coloring materials being non-toxic.

• First Aid:

- Do not panic. Call for help immediately.
- Examine the child if the airway is clear (e.g. can talk, cry or not); if breathing is adequate and circulation is normal (observe colour of the face, depth and rate of breathing).
- Start CPR if necessary. Be cautious not to contact any chemicals.
- If the child is unconscious but the airway is clear, breathing & circulation are normal, place in a lateral position.
- Bring along with any vomitus and remains of drugs taken when seeking medical treatment.

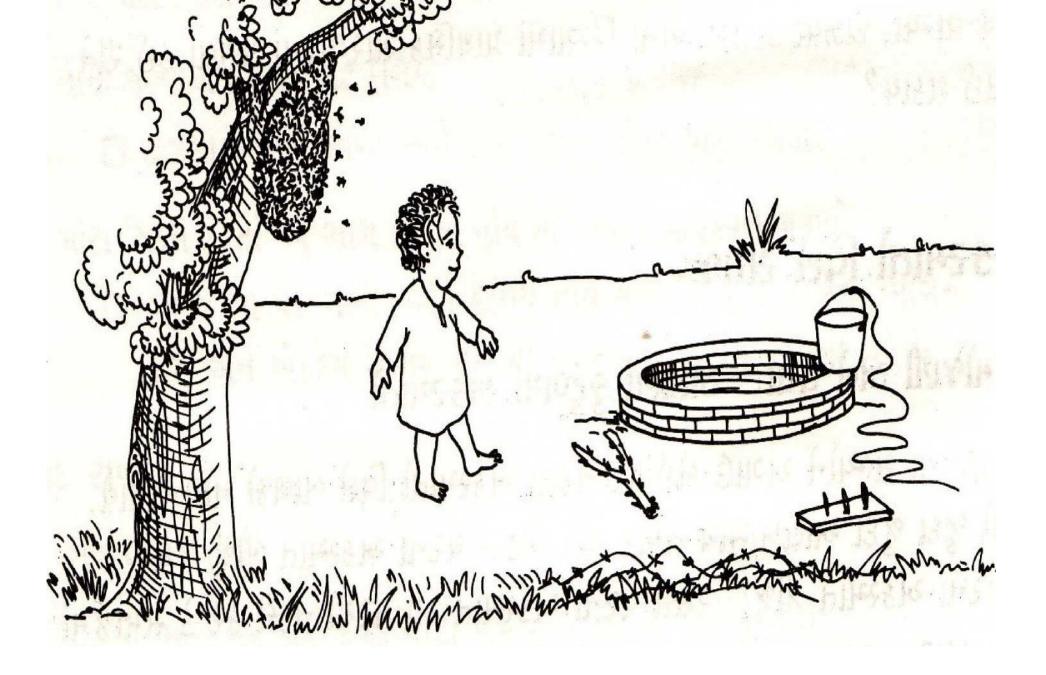


- Children can drown in less than 3cm of water. They should be under constant supervision when in or near any water.
- Prevention
- ^ Never leave children or babies in the bath unsupervised, even for a

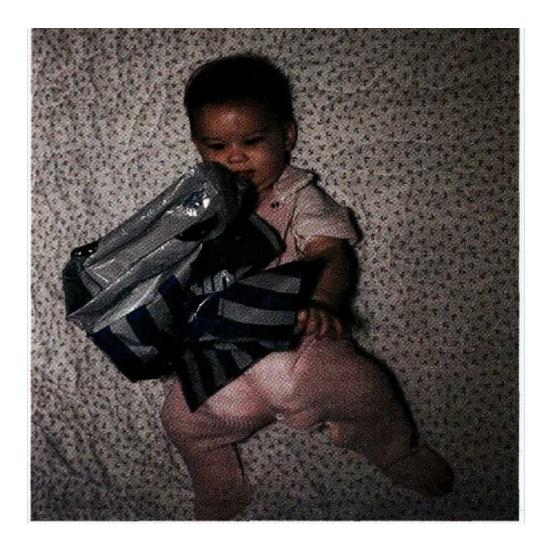
moment

- ^ Never leave uncovered bowls or buckets of water around the home
- * Paddling pools should be emptied and stored away when not in use
- ^ Garden ponds should be filled in while children are small or securely

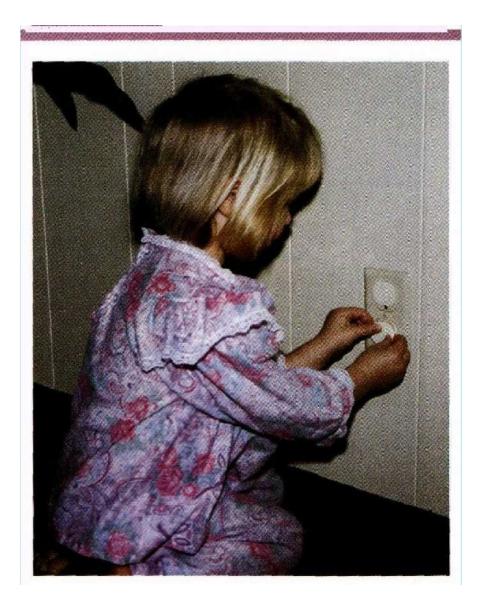
fenced off. Take special care when visiting other people's gardens.



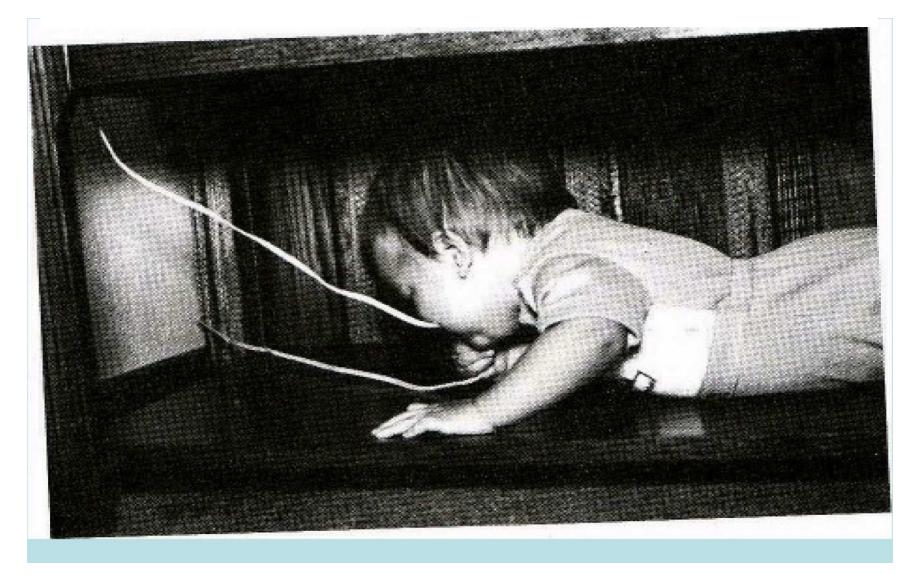
the leading cause of death from injury in infants.

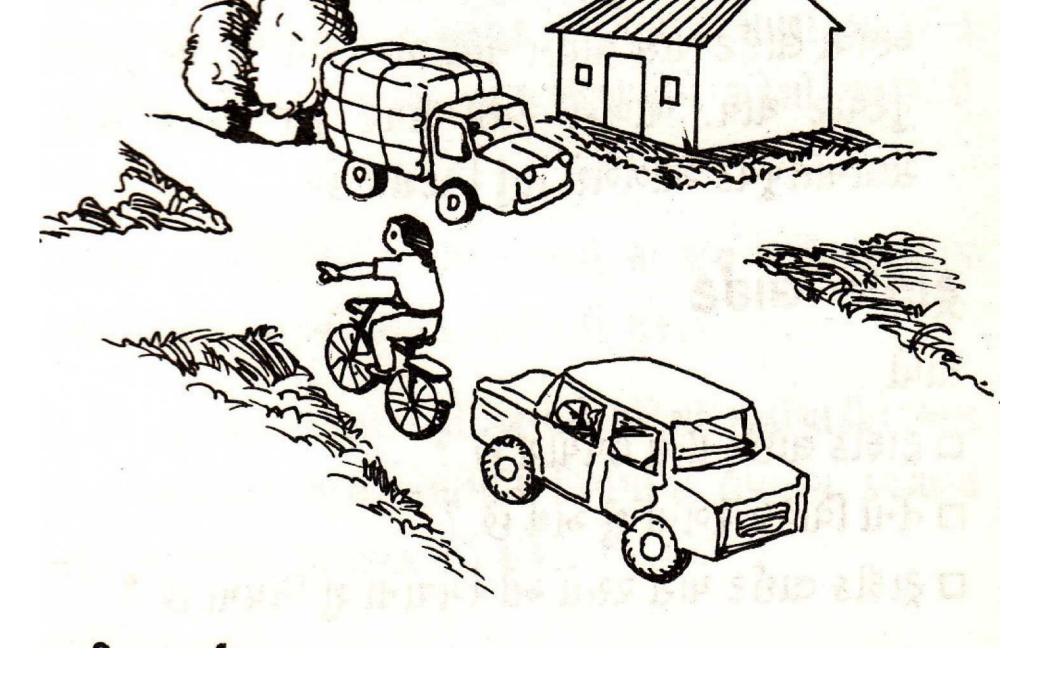


sockets prevent young fingers from



electrical wires even in "hidden"*





CONCLUSION:

 Accident could not be completely avoided, but its occurrence could be prevented. To prevent accident to children, adults should pay more attention to home safety. They should also clear any hidden "hazards" at home and teach children about safety. If accidents happen, stay calm and call for help immediately.

