



Media Release

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Keep the kids safe over the March Break

Next week signals the beginning of the March Break and Hastings Children's Aid Society reminds all parents and caregivers of the importance of keeping the kids in their care safe over the holiday.

"Parents need to remind their children about basic tips to keep them safe at home and in the public," says HCAS Executive Director, Len Kennedy. "By talking to your kids and giving them the information they need to make better safety decisions, as well as assuring that they are appropriately supervised at all times, you can help keep the kids in your care safe at all times."

Safety tips for parents during March Break

- ✓ Make sure your child is safe and well cared for and when hiring a caregiver, check references and training.
- ✓ Supervise children at all times around all water. Thin ice and fast flowing streams, including open ditches, are extremely dangerous at this time of year.
- ✓ Teach younger children proper road safety rules such as crossing at designated crosswalks or traffic lights.
- ✓ On the playground, check your child's clothing for loose scarves or strings that can get stuck and check playground equipment before your child plays.
- ✓ Remind children not to play or walk along railroad tracks.

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- ✓ Learn what your child is doing on the computer. Ensure children do not give out personal information online and caution children never to agree to meet anyone from a chat room in person.
- ✓ Give your daycare provider a list of safe people who can pick up your child and provide contact information should an emergency arise.

Kennedy reminds parents to provide older children, mature and responsible enough to be unsupervised at home, with a safety plan in case of emergencies so they know what to do and discuss who they can call and how to answer the door or telephone when their parents are not at home.

If you are in doubt about leaving your child at home alone or if you have other questions, call Hastings Children's Aid Society at 613-962-9291.