

Society says safety first this summer!

School's soon wrapping up for the summer, and Len Kennedy, Hastings Children's Aid Society Executive Director, reminds parents and caregivers of the importance of reviewing the rules of summer safety carefully with the children in their care.

"Statistics show that accidents involving kids often peak during the summer months because children have more free time, engage in more outdoor activities and may not be as closely supervised as at other times of the year," said Kennedy. "By educating kids and providing them with the proper tools to allow them to make better safety decisions, as well as assuring that children are appropriately supervised at all times, parents and caregivers can keep the kids in their care safer this summer."

Summer safety check list:

- ✓ Children should always wear correctly fitted helmets and protective gear while bicycling, skateboarding or in-line skating.
- ✓ When crossing streets, teach children to look left, right, then left again before stepping off the curb.
- ✓ Remind children not to play, walk or bicycle along railroad tracks.
- ✓ Make sure children wear bright, reflective clothing to be easily seen
- ✓ Do a maintenance check of your children's bikes, recreation and playground equipment to assure it is in good working order.
- ✓ Supervise children at all times around water and make sure they wear an approved life jacket when near or on water.
- ✓ Learn what your child is doing on the computer and ensure children do not give out personal information online.
- ✓ Give your daycare provider a list of safe people who can pick up your child and provide contact information should an emergency arise.

"With school soon out, it's important that motorists slow down and pay additional attention when traveling near parks and playgrounds," cautioned Kennedy. "Children on foot and on bikes are unpredictable and may dart out into traffic at any time."

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