

**SAFE
K:DS**
COLUMBUS



Piedmont
COLUMBUS REGIONAL

Newsletter

February 2026

Help us make every kid a safe kid

February

**Let's keep our families safe at home
and beyond**

CLASSES & SERVICES
safekidscolumbusga.org

Safe Sleep Class: includes a new portable crib
for eligible parents.

Requires Program Application:

[CLASSES & SERVICES \(safekidscolumbusga.org\)](http://CLASSES & SERVICES (safekidscolumbusga.org))

Upcoming dates:

Feb 3 • Mar 3 • Apr 21

Car Seat Class: includes a new car seat for
eligible parents.

Requires Program Application:

[CLASSES & SERVICES \(safekidscolumbusga.org\)](http://CLASSES & SERVICES (safekidscolumbusga.org))

Upcoming dates:

Feb 17 • Mar 17 • Apr 7



What's Inside

*** Burn Safety**

***Choking Prevention**

***Product Safety & Recall Awareness**

***TV & Furniture Tip-Over Prevention**

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Preventing Childhood Injuries at home, at play & on the way.

Aflac



Kiwanis
CLUB OF COLUMBUS, GA

Growing Room
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS



Rivertown
PEDIATRICS

**UGHSTON
CLINIC**
Research • Education • Treatment

**Georgia
Power**

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P: 706.321.6720 | **M:** PO Box 4561, Columbus GA 31914 | **E:** safekidscolumbusga@piedmont.org | **W:** safekidscolumbusga.org

Get to Know Us



Safe Kids Columbus is part of a network of 600 local coalitions across the United States who work everyday in their community to protect kids.

It is network of community partners, volunteers, and certified safety technicians all working together to prevent accidental injuries.

They go beyond just providing tips; they implement evidence-based programs right in the community. This includes essential services like interactive car seat and safe sleep educational classes, car seat checkups and distribution events, and vital safety workshops.

They understand that "kids are going to fall, crash, slip and tumble," and their mission is to prevent serious harm while letting kids be kids.

By collaborating with local law enforcement, hospitals, and countless volunteers, Safe Kids Columbus helps create a united community where every child can feel secure and protected from danger. They are a bright light in Columbus, lighting the way to safety and making a positive difference one program, one family, and one child at a time.



To get involved or learn more about their programs, you can visit the Safe Kids Columbus website or connect with them through Piedmont Columbus Regional.

National Burn Awareness Week

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Burn and Scald Prevention Tips

Everything you need to know to keep your kids safe from burns and scalds.

The smell of cookies baking in the oven or tasty sauces simmering on the stovetop is hard to resist for adults and kids alike. Here are a few simple steps to keep your little chef safe from potential burns, whether in the kitchen, around a fireplace or in any other part of your home.

Childproof Your Electrical Outlets and Appliances

- Keep appliance cords out of children's reach, especially if the appliances produce a lot of heat.
- Cover electrical outlets so that children are unable to insert metal objects, such as forks or keys.
- Keep an eye on appliances such as irons, curling irons or hair dryers that can heat up quickly or stay warm after use. Unplug these items after you're done.
- Don't carry or hold a child while cooking on the stove. Instead, move a high chair in the kitchen within reach or sight before you start. Then talk to your children so they know what's going on. It's a great way to spend time together.

Check to Make Sure the Water Temperature Is Just Right

- With everything going on, we know the water heater is the last thing on your mind. But a small change can give you one less thing to worry about. To prevent accidental scalding, set your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or the manufacturer's recommended setting.



- Consider installing anti-scald devices in water faucets and showerheads to avoid potential burns.
- Check the water with your wrist or elbow before giving your baby a bath.



Use the Back Burner and Oven Mitts

- Kids love to reach, so to prevent hot food or liquid spills, simply use the back burner of your stove and turn pot handles away from the edge of your counters.
- Use oven mitts or potholders and keep hot foods and liquids away from table and counter edges. Be careful if your oven mitt is hot; when combined with heat, the moisture can cause scalds.
- Slowly open containers that have been in the microwave, as steam can burn little fingers and faces.



In 2020, more than 71,000 children across the country, including more than 32,000 children 4 and under, were injured due to a fire or burn and treated in emergency rooms.

February 1-7

"Burn Prevention Where You Live, Work, and Play"

To teach your children about burn and scald safety, use the activity below so they will know "what's hot and what's not."

Hot, Can Get Hot or Not Hot?

There are things inside and outside the home that are hot or can get hot. It is important to stay away from hot things. Don't touch them. If you are unsure if something is hot, stay away and check with a grown-up.

Directions: Look at the pictures below. Which pictures show something HOT? Which pictures show something that CAN GET HOT? Which pictures show something that is NOT HOT?

Write **HOT** or **CAN GET HOT** or **NOT HOT** under the correct pictures.



a.



b.



c.



d.



e.



f.



g.



h.



i.



j.



k.



l.

Engage Older Kids in Cooking

- Teach older responsible kids how to cook safely. It will make your life easier if your kids can cook some of their own meals (and maybe yours, too). Teach them never to leave the kitchen while they are using the stove or oven. Don't forget that the number one cause of home fires is unattended cooking.
- Don't allow children to use a microwave by themselves until they are tall enough to reach it safely and are able to understand that steam can cause burns.
- Instruct older kids to use oven mitts or potholders to remove items from the oven or stove and teach them how to use a microwave safely.

Be Careful With the Microwave

- Microwaves can heat unevenly and create hot spots, so avoid using them to heat baby formula or baby milk.
- Heat bottles by placing them in warm water, and make sure they have cooled to the appropriate temperature before feeding your baby.

Keep Flammable Materials Away From Space Heaters

- Remember to keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn or catch fire.
- Make sure you turn them off when you leave the room.

Install Barriers Such as Safety Gates Around Fireplaces, Ovens and Furnaces

- Make sure your fireplace is protected by a sturdy screen. Remember that glass screens can take a long time to cool down.
- If you are using a fireplace or wood stove, burn only seasoned hardwood such as oak, ash or maple.
- If small children live in or visit your home, use a safety gate around your fireplace or wood stove.



Blow Out Candles and Store Matches Out of Reach

- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, and always blow them out when you leave the room or before you go to sleep.
- Make a habit of placing matches, gasoline and lighters in a safe place, out of children's reach. Avoid novelty lighters or lighters that look like toys.
- Teach kids never to play with matches, lighters or fireworks. Depending on the age and maturity level of your child, it may be reasonable to use the items with the supervision of an adult. Just be sure that a fire extinguisher and a phone are close by in case of an emergency.
- Unplug and safely store irons, flatirons and other appliances that might be hot to the touch.

Key: a. hot, b. not hot, c. not hot, d. can get hot, e. can get hot, f. hot, g. not hot, h. can get hot, i. not hot, j. not hot, k. can get hot, l. not hot

CHECK OUT SPARKY.ORG FOR MORE FUN!

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Product Safety & Recall Awareness

Product safety for children requires proactive monitoring of recalls from agencies like the [CPSC](#), [FDA](#), and [NHTSA](#), focusing on hazards like choking, tip-overs, and ingestion. Key actions include registering products, checking for recalls on secondhand items, and reviewing [SaferProducts.gov](#). Common risks include toys, furniture, and clothing.

CLICK

United States
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Joyful Journeys Recalls Baby Loungers Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Entrapment and Fall Hazards; Violates Mandatory Standard for Infant Sleep Products



Recalled Joyful Journeys Baby Lounger in blue zoo animals

BBWOO Baby Loungers Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Entrapment and Fall Hazards; Violate Mandatory Standard for Infant Sleep Products; Sold on Amazon by LSY Direct



Recalled BBWOO Baby Lounger in Gray Dinosaur

Keep Kids Safe: Crucial Product Recall & Safety Awareness Tips

The safety of our children is a top priority. A crucial step in keeping them safe is staying informed about potential hazards and product recalls. Here are simple yet vital guidelines to help parents and caregivers ensure their children are using safe products:

Stay Informed & Check for Recalls

Knowledge is power when it comes to product safety. Make it a habit to monitor official sources regularly:

Check the CPSC Website: The primary source for recall information is the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Regularly check their website for any recalls related to children's products and furniture.

Sign Up for Alerts: The easiest way to stay informed is by signing up for email alerts directly from the CPSC. This delivers recall information straight to your inbox.

Monitor FDA Alerts: Keep an eye on the FDA's recalls, market withdrawals, and safety alerts, especially for items that might pose lead exposure risks to children and pregnant women.

Smart Shopping & Usage

Purchase from Reputable Sources: Always buy toys and children's products from major, trusted brands and established retailers to better ensure they meet current safety standards.

Avoid Recalled & Older Products: It sounds obvious, but ensure you immediately remove any recalled toys or items from your home. Be extra cautious with toys made before 2009, as they may contain higher levels of lead that are now prohibited by modern safety standards.

Be a Safety Advocate

You can help keep other families safe, too! If you notice a safety issue or a potential hazard with a product you own, report it immediately to [SaferProducts.gov](#).

By following these simple guidelines, we can all help ensure our children play and grow in the safest environment possible.

Choking Prevention

Safety First: Protecting Big Kids from Choking & Strangulation Risks

Big kids grow more independent every day. And although they're likely past the stage of putting everything they see in their mouths, they still can be at risk of choking and strangulation. Here are some tips to help.

- Remove necklaces, purses, scarves, helmets or clothing with drawstrings when children are playing or sleeping.
- Seek medical attention immediately if you suspect that magnets have been swallowed.
- Bookmark recalls.gov for additional information about important product recalls for your family.



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Choking and Strangulation Prevention Tips

Everything you need to know to keep your kids safe from choking or strangulation.

Is there a cell phone or set of car keys that hasn't made its way into your toddler's mouth? We didn't think so. Don't despair – there are simple tips that can help keep your children from getting injured as a result of their compulsive need to teethe, suck and drool on everyday objects and toys.

Make Meals Fun and Safe

- Cut food for toddlers into tiny pieces. Children under 5 should not eat small, round or hard foods, including pieces of hot dogs, cheese sticks or chunks, hard candy, nuts, grapes, marshmallows or popcorn.
- Remember to have young kids eat in a high chair or at the table, not while lying down or playing. It is important to supervise your babies when they are eating or playing.



Keep Small Objects Out of Reach

- See the world from a child's point of view. Get on the floor on your hands and knees so that you are at your child's eye level. Look for and remove small items.
- Keep small objects such as buttons, beads, jewelry, pins, nails, marbles, coins, stones and tacks out of reach and sight.

Among children treated in emergency rooms for non-fatal choking incidents, almost 60 percent were food-related. Overall, 13 percent of cases involved swallowing coins and 19 percent involved candy or gum.



Be On the Lookout for Magnets

- Keep small magnets away from children. These include magnets found in construction sets, children's toys or stress-relieving adult desk toys; refrigerator magnets; and rare-earth magnets such as Buckyballs.
- Inspect games or toys that include magnets. Inspect children's play areas regularly for missing or dislodged magnets as well.
- Seek medical attention immediately if you suspect that magnets have been swallowed. Look for abdominal symptoms, such as pain, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. Note that in X-rays, multiple magnetic pieces may appear as a single object.



Keep Cords Out of Reach

- Keep cords and strings, including those attached to window blinds, out of your child's reach. Move all cribs, beds, furniture and toys away from windows and window cords.
- If you live in a home where you are not allowed to replace your window coverings, follow basic window cord safety rules and order free retrofit kits from the Window Covering Safety Council at www.windowcoverings.org.

For more information visit safekids.org. © 2015 Safe Kids Worldwide®

Check Your Child's Clothes and Accessories

- Remove necklaces, purses, scarves, helmets or clothing with drawstrings when children are playing or sleeping.
- Don't tie strings or ribbons to a pacifier or toy. Remember that jewelry can be dangerous around your baby. Remove bibs before bedtime or nap time.

Find the Perfect Toy for the Right Age

- Consider your child's age and development when purchasing toys or games. It's worth a second to read the instructions and warning labels to make sure it's just right for your child.
- Before you've settled on the perfect toy, check to make sure there aren't any small parts or other potential choking hazards.
- When cleaning up, avoid toy chests that have no lids or safety hinges, as these could pose hazards to your child.



Sign Up to Receive Product Recalls

- Sign up with Safe Kids to receive monthly e-mail alerts for recent recalls specific to children.
- Bookmark www.recalls.gov for additional information about important product recalls for your family.



TV & Furniture Tip-Over Prevention

CLICK

TV Tip-Overs

How kids are getting hurt and what to do about it.



Every 3 weeks a child dies from a television tip-over.*



Ten children go to the ER every day because of a TV tip-over.



7 out of 10 kids injured by TV tip-overs are ages 5 and under.



A 36" heavier, box-style CRT TV falling three feet creates the same momentum as a 1-year-old child falling 10 stories.



34% of households still have a CRT in the home.



36% of child fatalities from 2000-2016 due to TV tip-overs involved someone climbing on the furniture or TV.



From 2000-2016, 51% of child fatalities due to TV and furniture tip-overs occurred in a bedroom.



Safety Tips



Properly place your old TV. If you have a heavier, box-style TV, place it on a **low, stable piece of furniture** that is appropriate for the TV's size and weight.



Secure your flat-panel TV. Be sure your flat-panel TV is properly secured with a **wall mount that has a safety certification** by an independent laboratory (such as UL, CSA, ETL).



Recycle your TV. To find a location near your home that **safely and responsibly recycles** unwanted TVs, go to www.GreenerGadgets.org.

* Based on estimates from CPSC and NEISS data for 2000-2016.

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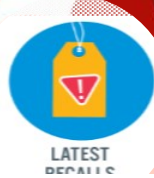
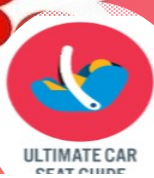
safekids.org

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FEBRUARY



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1

3

Safe
Sleep
Online
Class

**National Burn
Awareness 2 - 8**

8

**Product Safety & Recall Awareness
9 -15**

15

17

Car
Seat
Online
Class

**Choking Prevention Awareness
16 -22**

22

**TV & Furniture Tip-Over Prevention
23 - Mar 1**



RESOURCE

PARTNER POP-UP



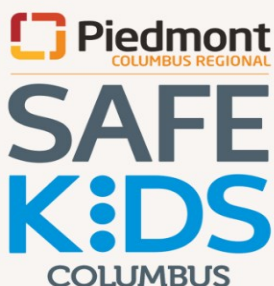
HOP INTO SAFETY

APRIL 2nd 10AM - 1PM

Safe Kids Columbus will be providing
FREE booster seats (ages 4 +) or bike helmets
for kids (while supplies last).

- Child must be present for helmet fitting or boosters seat sizing
- While supplies last (**parent must sign waiver for safety gear**)
- **Need a car seat?** Sign-up for an online **Car Seat Class**.

WHERE: **Retail Store & Goodwill KIDS**
6499 Veterans Parkway | Columbus, GA 31909



Take a picture with the
Easter Bunny!



Walk to School Day Award

A huge round of applause for Wynnton Arts Academy! The midtown Columbus school has been recognized as the Walk to School Day Champion for their spectacular community effort last October.

The award was presented by Safe Kids Columbus, alongside the Muscogee County School Police and the Columbus Police Department, celebrating the school's overwhelming enthusiasm and commitment to safe, healthy commuting.

On October 8th, the Wynnton community truly showed up in force. More than 100 participants, including energetic students, supportive parents, the lively marching band, and cheerleaders - all laced up their sneakers and proudly walked to school together.

This wonderful turnout demonstrated the spirit and unity of the Wynnton Arts Academy family, promoting fitness and pedestrian safety with every step! Congratulations to all who participated!

