



# KEEPING IN TOUCH

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## SAFE KIDS WEEK 2008

*Pedestrian Safety May 26 – June 1, 2008*

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Safe Kids Week campaign. Safe Kids Week is an exciting national education campaign presented by Safe Kids Canada with sponsor support from Johnson & Johnson. Every year during Safe Kids Week, hundreds of community organizations across the country join Safe Kids Canada to focus attention on preventing injuries to children.

Pedestrian injuries are the third leading cause of injury-related death for children under the age of fourteen. For this reason, the

2008 campaign will focus on pedestrian safety. The campaign will emphasize education, engineering and enforcement solutions to reduce child pedestrian injuries and fatalities.

Your participation in Safe Kids Week 2008 is crucial to the success of the campaign. How you participate is up to you. From something as simple as distributing the free Safe Kids Week resource to organizing one of the recommended events or activities, all contributions are valuable and appreciated in the effort to reduce child injuries.

If you have any questions about Safe Kids Week or would like ideas about how your organization can participate, please contact **Denyse Boxell**, Project Leader, Safe Kids Week, at **416-813-5118** or by e-mail at **denyse.boxell@sickkids.ca**

*"Injuries continue to be the number one cause of death for kids. But it doesn't have to be that way. Giving parents practical and reliable solutions to keep kids safe – that's what we do,"* says Pamela Fuselli, executive director (Interim), Safe Kids Canada.

### *Canadians advised that home lead testing kits are unreliable*

Recent recalls of toys containing excessive amounts of lead have resulted in an increase in the promotion and use of home lead testing kits. *Health Canada's Product Safety Laboratory has evaluated a number of home lead test kits available on the Canadian marketplace and found that the results they give are not fully reliable.* Test results vary considerably from one brand of test kit to another and are also affected by the type of product or material being tested.

Since the test kits indicate the presence of lead by a colour change, the results may be affected by pigments present in the tested product. Also, the test kit may not detect lead in a product which has a protective or decorative coating. The test results are hard to interpret since a positive reading does not necessarily mean that there is enough lead in the product to create an exposure risk. The kits have a limited shelf life, and performance can be affected by the age of the kits.

*Because of these concerns, Health Canada does not recommend the use of home lead test kits by consumers.*

## How families adjust to a new culture

How families adjust to the new culture depends a great deal on whether one family member migrated alone or whether a large portion of the family, community, or nation came together.

Families who migrate alone have a greater need to adapt to the new situation, and their losses are often more hidden. Frequently, educated immigrants, who come for professional jobs, are in this situation of moving to

a place where there is no one with whom they can speak their native language or share customs and rituals.

When a number of families migrated together they brought their network with them and were able to preserve much of their traditional heritage. ...

The reasons for migration will also play an important role, including what the family was seeking and what it was leaving behind – religious or political persecution,

poverty, wish for adventure, and so forth.

A family's dreams and fears ... become part of its heritage. Their attitudes toward what came before and what lies ahead will have profound impact on the messages given to their children, although the subject may never be mentioned.

– From *Ethnicity and Family Therapy*, McGoldrick, Pearce & Giordano, editors

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**Further information** on lead and human health can be found at:

[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/iyh-vsv/ environ/lead-plomb\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/iyh-vsv/environ/lead-plomb_e.html)

## What about antibacterial soaps & waterless hand sanitizers?



Though antibacterial soaps can kill some germs, they do not kill all germs no matter how strong the soap is or how long it sits on your hands. Without appropriate handwashing, antibacterial soaps cannot be totally effective. It is still essential to spend enough time washing germs away from the skin. The same is true of waterless sanitizers. If you are in a situation where no running water is available, then certainly, it is better than nothing. Again, however, waterless sanitizers cannot kill all harmful germs, and it doesn't get germs off your hands. Soap and warm, running water is still the best choice.

(Perdue & Hammack, 1998)

## RESOURCES Take a Look!

### Developing Language for Life Quick Tips for Parents

From the National Literacy Trust in the UK, *Talk To Your Baby* has produced a series of quick tips for parents and practitioners to help children develop good talking and listening skills.

Attractive, and easy to read fact sheets, these can be downloaded, photocopied free of charge and are available in many languages.

<http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/talktoyourbaby/quicktips.html>

## Take care of yourself with ... "My Food Guide"



*My Food Guide* is an interactive tool that will help you personalize the information found in *Canada's Food Guide*.

By entering personal information, such as age and sex, selecting various items from the four food groups and choosing different types of physical activities, you can create a tool that is customized just for you.

There are lots of foods to choose from in each of the four food groups, so be sure to try different combinations when creating this tool that illustrates how you can eat well with *Canada's Food Guide*.

In addition to English or French you can choose to print this tool in the following languages: Arabic, Chinese (traditional or simplified), Farsi, Korean, Russian, Punjabi, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil or Urdu



[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/food-guide-aliment/myguide-monguide/index\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/food-guide-aliment/myguide-monguide/index_e.html)

## Children's book suggestions from the Ottawa Pubic Library

If you're 1 or 2 years old,  
you might like...



*Hug* by Jez Alborough

*Walk On! A guide for babies of all ages* by Marla Frazee

*Traveling Babies* by Kathryn O. Galbraith

*What Will We Do With the Baby-o?* by Theo Heras \*

*My First Signs* by Annie Kubler

*Willoughby Wallaby Woo* by Dennis Lee \*

*I Kissed the Baby* by Mary Murphy

*One Beautiful Baby* by Martine Osborne

*Five Little Chicks* by Nancy Tafuri

*Piggies* by Don & Audrey Wood

\* Canadian author

## May we introduce ...

**PAUL JACKSON** has recently joined us as a CMAS consultant and is looking forward to visiting our programs. An ECE graduate from Seneca College, Paul has worked in the field for the last 17 years. Working for 10 years as a teacher, he then went on to post graduate study in daycare management with a specialty in school age program development at George Brown College. Paul has spent the last 7 years as manager and operator of childcare centres in the Toronto region, run youth leadership/ mentor programs and is an active workshop presenter. Paul has been married for 9 years and is the 'proud Papa' of three wonderful children.

