

## Back to School

# Safety Checklist

- 1 Drawstrings on Jackets and Sweatshirts**—There should be no drawstrings on hoods or around the neck. Drawstrings at the waist or bottom of jackets should extend no more than 3 inches and have no knots or toggles on the ends to prevent catching in car and school bus doors or getting caught on playground equipment.
- 2 Soccer Goals**—Make sure that the athletic director or the custodian anchors the soccer goals into the ground so that the soccer goal will not tip over and crush a child.
- 3 Playgrounds**—Check the surfaces around playground equipment at schools and parks to make sure there is a 12-inch depth of wood chips, mulch, pea gravel, or mats made of safety-tested rubber or fiber material to prevent head injury when a child falls. Each year, more than 200,000 children go to U.S. hospital emergency rooms with injuries associated with playground equipment. Most injuries occur when a child falls from the equipment onto the ground.
- 4 Loops on Window Blind Cords**—Cut the loop and attach separate tassels to prevent entanglement and strangulation in window blind cords. One child a month strangles and dies in the loop of a window blind cord.
- 5 Bike Helmets**—Buy a helmet that meets one of the safety standards (U.S., CPSC, Snell, ANSI, ASTM or Canadian), and insist that your children wear the helmet each time they ride their bike. About 900 people, including more than 200 children, are treated annually in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for bicycle-related injuries. Research indicates that a helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by up to 85 percent.
- 6 Recalled Products**—Make sure your child's school has up-to-date information on recalled toys and children's products. Schools, daycare providers, and parents can receive recall information by FAX, e-mail, or in the regular mail free of charge by calling the CPSC hotline (800/638-2772), or writing to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington D.C. 20207. Recall information is also available on the CPSC website at: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

**For more information** on consumer protection issues, contact the Bureau of Consumer Protection at:

**(800) 422-7128**

**FAX: (608) 224-4939**

**E-MAIL: [datcp hotline@datcp.state.wi.us](mailto:datcp hotline@datcp.state.wi.us)**

**TTY: (608) 224-5058**

**WEBSITE: [www.datcp.state.wi.us](http://www.datcp.state.wi.us)**

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