No Link Between Autism and Vaccines

A recent issue of the Journal of Pediatrics includes a study: “Increasing Exposure to Antibody-stimulating Proteins and Polysaccharides in Vaccines is Not Associated with Risk of Autism” available online at: http://jpeds.com/content/JPEDSDeStefano.

The pediatric study referenced in the article evaluated the issue of “too many vaccines too soon” in relation to the incidence of autism. The findings showed that the amount of antigens from vaccines received on one day of vaccination, or in total during the first two years of life, is not related to the development of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in children. Antigens are substances in vaccines that cause the body’s immune system to produce antibodies to fight disease. The study found that the total amount of antigens from vaccines received was the same between children with ASD and those that did not have ASD.

Tiara Maasen, age 9, was diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder in December 2007.

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Ensuring vaccine safety is important for all vaccines. The United States currently has the safest, most effective vaccines in history. For more than 30 years, a vaccine safety system has been in place to ensure that vaccines are as safe as possible. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), along with other federal agencies, is committed to assuring the safety of vaccines through rigorous pre-licensure trials and post-licensure monitoring.

CDC knows that some parents are concerned that there is a link between vaccines (like MMR) and autism. However, several large and reliable studies of MMR vaccine have been done in the U.S. and other countries. None have found a link between autism and the MMR vaccine. Although scientific evidence shows that vaccines do not cause autism, a 2012 HealthStyles survey showed that more than 15% of parents are concerned that they do.

More than 1 in 10 parents of young children surveyed have refused or delayed vaccinations with the belief that delaying vaccinations is safer than following the CDC schedule.

The CDC and other agencies and organizations continue to conduct research to learn more about the causes of autism. Many doctors believe that genetics likely play a strong role. Parents should talk to their child’s health care professional immediately about any concerns that arise as they observe their child’s development. By working together, parents and health care professionals can act early to identify developmental problems and take action to help children reach their full potential.

For more information about autism, visit the CDC website on Autism Spectrum Disorders at: http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/index.html.

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**Immunizations411 for Child Care Providers**

**Free Online Training Modules**

Child care providers now have an opportunity to complete the Immunizations411 online training modules. Module One is available now on the DHSS website. Read more about these new clock-hour approved modules below:

- **Module One - The Importance of Immunizations**
  (Available Now at: http://health.mo.gov/childcareimmunizations)
  Module one details the importance of immunizations for child care workers and children in child care/preschool facilities. This module is worth one-clock hour of training.

- **Module Two - Missouri Statute, Rule and Tools**
  (Coming Soon)
  Module two explains the Missouri state law and rule regarding immunizations in your child care facility and demonstrates some of the tools available to help ensure that children in your facility are adequately immunized. This module is worth two-clock hours of training.

- **Module Three - Child Care/Preschool Status Report Completion Guide**
  (Coming Soon)
  Module three is a simplistic step-by-step instructional guide on how to properly complete the state required child care/preschool immunization status report that is due no later than January 15th every year. This module is worth one-clock hour of training.
Caution! Sunny days ahead! Fun in the sun means children need to be protected. Child Care Licensing Rules 19 CSR 30-62.182 (2) (B) 4. and 19 CSR 30-61.175 (2) (B) 4. require a total of at least one (1) hour of outdoor play for children in attendance a full day unless prevented by weather or special medical reasons. Use the following tips to ensure that your children are allowed to play outdoors safely:

**SUNSCREEN:** The proper use of sunscreen is very important when little ones are spending time outdoors.

**SHADE:** Provide shade in your outdoor play area. This can be in the form of trees, umbrellas, awnings or some types of play equipment.

**HATS:** Use hats to protect the tender scalps and faces. A hat with a wide brim will help protect children’s necks as well.

**PROTECTIVE CLOTHING:** Encourage parents to provide light-weight long sleeve shirts designed for sun protection when children are outdoors.

**SCHEDULING:** Schedule your outdoor play in the morning when over-exposure is less likely. The required one hour of play may be broken up into 15-20 minute periods to prevent over-exposure.

**WATER:** Ensure that children have access to water when playing outdoors and encourage them to drink water often.

**SUNGLASSES:** Ask parents to provide child safe shatter resistant sunglasses with at least 99% UV protection.

**INFANTS:** Keep infants younger than six months out of direct sunlight. Find shade under a tree, umbrella or the stroller canopy.

Applying sunscreen and properly documenting its application can be a time-consuming task for child care providers and children’s families. Child care providers may speak to their child care facility specialist to request a variance to follow procedures that will make sunscreen application an easier and less time-consuming process. A variance may allow a standard form to be used that indicates the brand and type of sunscreen to be applied, which parents may sign once per year. The provider would be responsible for following the manufacturer’s guidelines for application of the sunscreen. Additionally, because it is being used as a preventive measure and not a treatment, documentation of the regular application of sunscreen would not be necessary. These allowances would save time and make it a much easier process to ensure that each child is protected from harmful overexposure to UV rays.

If you are a provider interested in determining if a variance for sunscreen application is possible for your facility, please contact your child care facility specialist for more information.
Apply to be an Eat Smart Child Care! What is Eat Smart? The Missouri Eat Smart Child Care program is designed to encourage child care facilities to offer healthier foods in an environment that is supportive and encouraging of healthy eating and meal time behaviors. The Eat Smart Guidelines are evidence-based nutrition and environmental standards that are more healthful than the minimum standards required by other programs. The intermediate and advanced achievement levels of the Eat Smart Guidelines have increasingly higher nutrition and environmental requirements that have been shown to be successful in preventing excessive weight gain and establishing overall healthy eating habits. To learn more, visit: www.health.mo.gov/eatsmartguidelines.

The following Eat Smart centers are to be commended for their accomplishments to promote healthy eating on a daily basis for the children in their care! The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Bureau of Community Food and Nutritional Assistance commends these child care centers for being leaders in promoting good nutrition and healthy eating environments for the children of Missouri. We hope their success will encourage other child care centers around the state to take the Missouri Eat Smart Child Care challenge.

Community Child Development Center in Macon, MO was awarded the Intermediate Eat Smart Recognition in November 2012. Patricia Knowles, Director, and Tonya Ryherd, Cook, were recognized for achieving the intermediate level of the Missouri Eat Smart Guidelines. On November 14, 2012, Community Child Development Center was presented a certificate and banner by Sarah Gaines, nutrition consultant, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services’ Bureau of Community Food and Nutrition Assistance (MDHSS-BCFNA) at the center’s annual Thanksgiving Feast, where parents attended and shared a Thanksgiving meal with their children. Community Child Development Center is the 15th child care center in Missouri to be recognized as a Missouri Eat Smart center.

(Top, right): Sarah Gaines, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services’ Bureau of Community Food & Nutrition Assistance Programs, recognizes Community Child Development Center for achieving the Intermediate level of the Missouri Eat Smart Guidelines.

(Bottom, left to right) Tonya Ryherd and Patricia Knowles of Community Child Development Center accept a certificate for achieving the Missouri Eat Smart Guidelines for Child Care.
Hope Child Care Center

Hope Child Care Center in Republic, MO was recognized as an Advanced Missouri Eat Smart child care center in November 2012. Hope Child Care is the 4th child care facility in Missouri to be recognized for the advanced level of the Missouri Eat Smart Guidelines, and the 16th child care center in Missouri to be recognized as Missouri Eat Smart. On November 30, 2012, Sherry Cliffton, nutrition specialist, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Bureau of Community Food and Nutrition Assistance (MDHSS-BCFNA) recognized Debbie Diefenderfer, director, and Hope Child Care Center for achieving the advanced level of the Missouri Eat Smart Guidelines.

(Please note: The image shows Sherry Cliffton and Debbie Diefenderfer holding an award, indicating the recognition.)

Little Pirates Learning Center

Little Pirates Learning Center in Perryville, MO was recognized in March 2013 for achieving the intermediate level of the Missouri Eat Smart Guidelines. On March 4, 2013, Little Pirates Learning Center became the first child care center in Southeast Missouri and the 31st child care center in Missouri to be recognized as Missouri Eat Smart. Sarah Gaines, nutrition consultant, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services’ Bureau of Community Food and Nutrition Assistance (MDHSS-BCFNA) recognized Renea Schnurbusch, director, and Little Pirates Learning Center for achieving the intermediate level of the Missouri Eat Smart Guidelines.

(Top, right) Sarah Gaines, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services’ Bureau of Community Food & Nutrition Assistance Programs, recognizes Renea Schnurbusch, director, and Little Pirates Learning Center for achieving the intermediate level of the Missouri Eat Smart Guidelines.

(right) Perryville’s “Little Pirates” performed a song and dance at the Eat Smart recognition ceremony.
Economic Security Corporation

Economic Security Corporation in Joplin, MO along with 13 of its Head Start Centers, was recognized in December 2012 for achieving the advanced level of the Missouri Eat Smart Guidelines. On December 17, 2012, Bebe Schaeffer, Economic Security Nutrition Coordinator, accepted the Advanced Eat Smart Recognition from Sherry Clifton, nutrition specialist, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services’ Bureau of Community Food and Nutrition Assistance (MDHSS-BCFNA). Head Start sites at Anderson, Carthage, Golden City, Granby, North Joplin, South Joplin, Lamar, Neosho, Seneca, Noel, Longview, Sarcoxie and Webb City were commended for their dedication to children’s health and efforts to achieve the standards set by the Advanced Eat Smart Guidelines. Economic Security is the 5th child care program in Missouri to be recognized for the advanced level of the Missouri Eat Smart Guidelines, the 8th child care program to be recognized as Missouri Eat Smart, and accounts for the 17th through 29th child care centers to achieve and be recognized for meeting the Missouri Eat Smart Guidelines.

(right) Jeff Goldammer, Economic Security Corporation Head Start director, and Bebe Schaeffer, nutrition coordinator, proudly present the banner, recognizing Economic Security as being Missouri Eat Smart.

(far right) Bebe Schaeffer, nutrition coordinator for Economic Security Corporation, is presented with roses by Jeff Goldammer, Economic Security Head Start director, in recognition for achieving the standards set by the Missouri Eat Smart Guidelines.

Magical Adventures Learning Center

Magical Adventures Learning Center in Foristell, MO was recognized as an Intermediate Missouri Eat Smart childcare center in January 2013. Magical Adventures is the 30th child care center in Missouri to be recognized as Missouri Eat Smart. On January 24, 2013, Sarah Gaines, nutrition consultant, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services’ Bureau of Community Food and Nutrition Assistance (MDHSS-BCFNA) recognized Kim Baker, director, and Magical Adventures Learning Center for achieving the intermediate level of the Missouri Eat Smart Guidelines.
The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) child care licensing rules require child care staff to document at least twelve (12) clock hours of DHSS approved child care-related training annually. Section 210.221, (4) RSMo provides that DHSS may determine what records shall be kept by providers and the methods to be used in keeping such records. Approved trainings can be found on the Missouri Workshop Calendar located at: www.moworkshopcalendar.org.

The following are not required to be maintained in the Missouri Professional Development System (MOPD) System until January 1, 2015 and may not appear on the Missouri Workshop Calendar:
- Training approved prior to the MOPD System (certificate must include the approval number)
- Training provided by Local Public Health Agencies
- Training received from DHSS, DSS, and DESE personnel (does not include contracted training)

Direct any questions about training approval status to: CCTraining@health.mo.gov or 573.751.2450. Additional information about the MOPD System is available on our website at: www.health.mo.gov/childcare/training.php, by calling 573.751.2450, or by contacting your child care facility specialist.

DHSS is transitioning to electronic recordkeeping for clock hour training through the MOPD System.

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS:
Child care providers participating in the MOPD System must:
- Obtain a 6-digit MOPD ID
  - Visit: www.mopdid.org
  - Call OPEN at 1-877-782-0185
  - Call DHSS at 1-573-751-2450
- Contact your Child Care Facility Specialist
  - Attend DHSS approved training
  - Provide MOPD ID to trainer
  - Maintain certificates for each training

Note: Providers do not need computer access. Obtaining a MOPD ID and enrolling in the MOPD Registry are not the same process. Registry enrollment is not required.

TRAINERS:
Trainers providing clock hours must:
- Submit application for approval prior to training
  - Publish training on the Missouri Workshop Calendar
  - Collect participants’ MOPD IDs
  - Issue a training certificate to training participants
  - Submit participants’ MOPD IDs to assign credit

Note: Training sessions must be approved to offer clock hours. Trainers do not need to be registered. Certificates must include title, date, clock hours, participant name, trainer name and approval number. More information is available at: www.health.mo.gov/childcare/trainerinfo.php.
There’s a new trend happening and you can be a part of it! Repurposing is taking something that has outlived its usefulness and turning it into something new. Why repurpose? Here are several reasons:

**Save money:** Let’s face it. You want your child care center to have great furniture, toys, and materials, but it can really cost a lot of money. Take something you already own and turn it into something that better meets your needs for a fraction of the cost.

**Create something unique:** Repurposing is a great way to liven up your center with items that no one else has. Children will appreciate having something new and exciting!

**Ecology:** Repurposing fits right in with the “green” movement. Why throw something away when it can be recycled? You’ll keep something that is no longer useful in its current state out of the landfill. This can be a great springboard for teaching children about being kind to the environment.

**Get just what you want:** If you’ve looked around for the perfect desk to meet your center’s needs, but nothing is “just right”, find something that you can transform into the perfect piece of furniture for you. You can create an item that is just the right size, color and function for your needs.

**You just can’t say goodbye:** You’ve had that nightstand for 30 years and you just can’t make yourself throw it away. It’s not serving a functional use anymore; you’ve replaced it with another piece of furniture that better suits your needs or style. Turn it into something else and you won’t have to say goodbye. It won’t be taking up much needed room in your garage any longer!

Take a look around to see what you might like to repurpose. If you don’t consider yourself creative, hop on the internet and search “repurposing ideas” or check out Pinterest. Have fun repurposing!
The Section for Child Care Regulation (SCCR) frequently receives questions from individuals who would like to become child care directors. Licensing Rule 19 CSR 30-62.102 (2) discusses the role of the Child Care Director/Group Home Provider and the education and/or experience required.

An individual must apply for Director Certification to be approved to meet the requirements for varying capacity ranges. College coursework from a regionally accredited college or university is necessary to achieve director certification.

It is important that courses taken to meet the educational requirements for director certification are taken at an institution that is regionally accredited. Most colleges and universities advertise that their institutions are “accredited”. There are many different types of accreditations and it can be difficult to determine if a university or college’s degree will be widely accepted. To make this easier, SCCR has published information on its webpage, Becoming a Child Care Director, to help determine if a particular institution is regionally accredited. Visit http://health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/director.php.

At this time, the following institutions are NOT regionally accredited, therefore credits from these institutions are not accepted toward director certification requirements: Penn Foster College, Ashworth College, U.S. Career Institute, and Career Colleges of America. These are just a few of the degree programs that are not regionally accredited.

For assistance in finding a regionally accredited college or university to work toward director certification, contact your Child Care Aware of Missouri Regional Agency and ask to speak to the training coordinator.

For questions about the director certification process, contact SCCR at 573-751-2450 or by email at CCDirectors@health.mo.gov.
It has been two years since an EF-5 tornado destroyed 14 licensed child care facilities in Joplin, MO, leaving 600 children looking for a new child care home. The devastating tornado struck the city on a Sunday afternoon. Had the tornado struck 24 hours later, those 600 children and the students at schools that were destroyed would have been exposed to unthinkable circumstances.

In 2011, the Section for Child Care Regulation (SCCR) updated its rules to include regulations for all licensed child care facilities to prepare an emergency preparedness plan and to practice drills to prepare for potential disasters. The SCCR provides support to child care facilities needing assistance in developing an emergency preparedness plan. Child care facility specialists can answer your questions about how to create an emergency preparedness plan. Child care providers can participate in a free one-hour training that is approved for DHSS clock hours by visiting the Child Care Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Training available on the DHSS website at: http://health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/training.php.

The Section for Child Care Regulation is gathering information for the purpose of assisting child care facilities with planning for emergency situations. This survey is for planning purposes and will not be used for regulatory reasons. Your responses are confidential and will not be used to identify your facility.

Please take a few moments to participate in the Child Care Emergency Preparedness Survey. The survey can be found at http://health.mo.gov/childcaresurvey/. For information or questions about the survey, contact Melissa Hope with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services at melissa.hope@health.mo.gov or 573.522.1333.

*Photo of children from Houston Optimist Club, Houston, Mo., practicing during a tornado drill.*
The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) child care licensing rules state that at least one caregiver with current certification in age-appropriate First Aid and CPR training be on site at all times. Centers must also have a caregiver with current certification for every 20 children in the licensed capacity of the center. This fact sheet will help child care providers understand and meet these requirements.

**Effective January 1, 2014**

According to American Red Cross and American Heart Association standards:

- Online-only First Aid or CPR training will **NOT** be accepted. “Blended” training—online study plus hands-on skill practice and assessment will be accepted.
- Per Rule 19 CSR 30-62.102 (1) (O) and 19 CSR 30-61.105 (1) (N), child care personnel must meet the requirements for “age-appropriate” First Aid and CPR. Only PEDIATRIC First Aid and PEDIATRIC CPR will be accepted.

**Which certifications are acceptable to meet the Rule?**

Any American Red Cross, American Heart Association, or American Safety and Health Institute certification meets the requirements. In addition, any certification advertised on the Missouri Workshop Calendar or otherwise DHSS approved for clock hours may be used to meet the requirements of the rule. Only the certification card is required. A training certificate is not needed to meet the rule.

**Which First Aid or CPR training sessions are approved for clock hours for child care providers in Missouri?**

Only First Aid and CPR training that is approved through the Missouri Workshop Calendar or is otherwise approved by DHSS is accepted for clock hours. A training certificate with the training approval number or a MOPD electronic record is required. If you have any questions regarding the approval status of First Aid or CPR training, please contact the Section for Child Care Regulation at CCTraining@health.mo.gov or by calling 573.751.2450.

**What are the age requirements for Pediatric First Aid and CPR and what if my certification says Infant/Child?**

Pediatric is a general term for infant and child so Infant/Child certifications are acceptable. Pediatric First Aid and CPR is required when a facility is licensed for children under age 13. If the facility is licensed for children age 13 and older, Adult CPR is required.

*Note: Certifications received BEFORE January 1, 2014 may consist of general First Aid (instead of Pediatric First Aid) or online-only First Aid. Any certifications received on or after January 1, 2014 may **NOT** be “online-only” and **MUST** include PEDIATRIC certification.*
All children have individual interests, likes, dislikes and abilities. Some children also have special needs such as physical disabilities, developmental delays or difficulties interacting with their peers or adults. All children deserve the opportunity to be included in a child care program where they feel welcomed and important. Inclusion Specialists are available in all areas of Missouri to assist child care providers in caring for children with special needs, including children with:

- Asthma
- Autism
- Mobility Issues
- Challenging Behaviors
- Vision or Hearing Impairments
- Developmental Delays
- Undiagnosed needs which affect participation in a child care program

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

ON-SITE VISITS: Inclusion Specialists are available in each region of the state to provide information about caring for children with special needs. Inclusion Specialists also conduct on-site visits to child care facilities for observation and assessment when needed. Inclusion Specialists provide general technical assistance in working with and identifying children with special needs in their program and, with parental permission, will work to formulate a plan specific to one child. The Inclusion Specialist can offer referrals to community resources and coordinate the plan with other professionals if appropriate. The on-site visits and technical assistance is available at no cost to the child care providers or families.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES: Inclusion Specialists provide training on inclusion topics around the state. Training is available at a very low cost of $2 per clock hour and can be found on the Missouri Workshop Calendar at moworkshopcalendar.org. Inclusion Specialists will schedule training sessions based upon demand and should be notified if a training session is desired in a specific county.

FAMILIES

ON-SITE VISITS: Inclusion Specialists will assist families of children with special needs who are being served in the child care setting. Families may contact the Inclusion Specialist in their area to request an on-site visit or meeting with the child care provider and other professionals to discuss how the child’s needs may best be met.

CHILD CARE REFERRALS: Inclusion Specialists are available to assist families of children with special needs to find an appropriate child care setting that can best meet the child’s needs. If there is not currently a child care setting that is equipped to provide the special services the child requires, Inclusion Specialists are available to work with child care programs to train staff to adequately care for the child.

Contact your regional Inclusion Specialist using the information on page 12.
Missouri Inclusion Services
Service Delivery Regions

For personalized child care referrals, or for general information about Inclusion Services, call:
1-800-467-2322
Or visit our website: www.united4children.org

Inclusion services and training are provided as part of a $299,293 project that is 100% funded with Maternal Child Health Care Block Grant federal funds through contract number C313040001 with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Section for Child Care Regulation (SCCR).
**Tick Season**

When enjoying outdoor activities, don’t forget to take steps to prevent bites from ticks that share the outdoors. Ticks can infect humans with bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause serious illnesses.

Reduce your chances of getting a tickborne disease by using repellents, checking for ticks and showering after being outdoors. If you have a tick bite followed by a fever or rash, seek medical attention.

Take these steps to check for ticks and for tick removal.

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**Check, check, check for Ticks**

Don’t spoil your outdoor fun - take these simple precautions to keep ticks off your body.

1. **AVOID TICK INFESTED AREAS!**
   - Walk in the center of trails to avoid overhanging grass and brush.

2. **DRESS PROPERLY!**
   - Wear light-colored clothing and tuck pants into socks.
   - Do a thorough body check for ticks after spending time outdoors.

3. **APPLY INSECT REPELLENT!**
   - Apply insect repellents containing 20 - 50% DEET as directed on the label. Spray repellents with permethrin on clothes only, not skin.

4. **DO TICK CHECKS!**
   - Examine clothing and skin frequently for ticks. Examine pets for ticks.

5. **CAREFULLY REMOVE ATTACHED TICKS IMMEDIATELY!**
   - Ticks can infect in ten hours or less. Prompt treatment can prevent serious illness or death.

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**Tick Removal**

Prompt removal of ticks can help prevent disease. Ticks can infect in ten hours or less.

1. **TAKE THESE STEPS TO REMOVE A TICK:**
   - Using tweezers, grasp tick near the mouthparts, as close to skin as possible.
   - Pull tick firmly, straight out, away from skin. Do not jerk or twist the tick.
   - Do NOT use alcohol, matches, or petroleum jelly to remove tick.
   - Wash your hands and the bite site with soap and water after the tick is removed. Apply an antiseptic to the bite site.
   - Tell your doctor you had a tick bite if you develop symptoms such as fever, headache, fatigue, or rash.

For more information visit the Department of Health and Senior Services at www.health.mo.gov/ticks or contact your local health department.

For more information, visit: [http://health.mo.gov/ticks](http://health.mo.gov/ticks) and [www.cdc.gov/Features/StopTicks/](http://www.cdc.gov/Features/StopTicks/).

Order additional tick check information cards (shown here) and checkout other information on ticks and mosquitoes at: [http://health.mo.gov/ticksorderform](http://health.mo.gov/ticksorderform).
Unsafe Products, and How to Obtain Recall Information

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is an independent federal regulatory agency that works to reduce the risk of injuries and deaths from consumer products. The CPSC issues approximately 300 product recalls each year, including many products found in child care settings. Many consumers do not know about the recalls and continue to use potentially unsafe products. As a result, used products may be lent or given to a charity, relatives or neighbors or sold at garage sales or secondhand stores. You can help by not accepting, buying, lending or selling recalled products. You can contact the CPSC to find out whether products have been recalled and, if so, what you should do with them. If you have products that you wish to donate or sell and you have lost the original packaging, contact the CPSC for product information. It is the responsibility of child care providers to ensure that recalled products are not in use in their facilities.

The CPSC’s toll-free hotline is available at 800.638.2772. The hearing impaired can call 800.638.8270. Information also is available on the CPSC website at www.cpsc.gov.

This quarter we are highlighting a product that has recently been recalled and are commonly found in child care facilities.

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 12, 2013
Recall #12-247

Six Retailers Announce Recall of Buckyballs and Buckycubes High-Powered Magnet Sets Due to Ingestion Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), in cooperation with six retailers, is announcing the voluntary recall of all Buckyballs and Buckycubes high-powered magnet sets sold by these companies. CPSC continues to warn that these products contain defects in the design, warnings and instructions, which pose a substantial risk of injury and death to children and teenagers.

Name of Product: Buckyballs and Buckycubes high-powered magnet sets

Units: About three million sets of Buckyballs and Buckycubes have been sold in U.S. retail stores nationwide and online since 2010 for between $5 and $100.

Manufacturer: Maxfield & Oberton LLC, of New York, N.Y

Manufactured In: China

Hazard: These products contain defects in the design, warnings and instructions, which pose a substantial risk of injury and death to children and teenagers.

Incidents/Injuries: CPSC has received 54 reports of children and teens ingesting this product, with 53 of these requiring medical interventions.

Description: Buckyballs and Buckycubes consist of sets of numerous, small, high-powered magnets. These sets vary in the number of magnets included and come in a variety of colors. Individual magnets in the set are about 5 millimeters in diameter. Individual magnets in Buckyballs are spherical and individual magnets in Buckycubes are cube-shaped.

Sold at: Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Brookstone, Halmark, Marbles the Brain Store, Toys R Us, Overstock.com and ThinkGeek

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the recalled high-powered magnet sets immediately, take all associated individual magnets away from children and teenagers and contact Toys R Us as listed above for a full refund. Toys R Us will contact each purchasing customer directly to coordinate the recall. Returns of the magnet sets will not be accepted in stores.

Consumer Contact: The retailers have agreed to participate because Maxfield & Oberton has refused to participate in the recall of all Buckyballs and Buckycubes. Go to These retailers have agreed to participate because Maxfield & Oberton has refused to participate in the recall of all Buckyballs and Buckycubes for the retailer contact information

Alert: New Bleach Concentrations

Sanitizing surfaces is very important in eliminating the spread of disease in the child care environment. Providers use a diluted bleach solution to sanitize tables, toys, doorknobs and other surfaces that come into contact with skin. Recently, bleach manufacturers have changed the concentration of bleach solutions available for purchase. Previously, bleach sold in stores was sold in a 5.25% solution. New bleach products available in many stores contain an 8.25% solution.

Child care providers are required to use chlorine test strips when preparing sanitizing solution to achieve a 100-200 ppm chlorine solution. It is important that providers use these test strips to ensure the bleach solution is at the proper concentration. The new bleach products available will create different concentrations when mixing the same amount of bleach product with water. Additionally, chlorine concentration levels in tap water may vary from day to day so using the test strips ensure that the proper solution is being used to sanitize is very important.

Questions about proper methods for sanitizing your child care facility can be directed to Local Public Health Agency (LPHA) representatives. A directory of LPHAs is located at: http://health.mo.gov/living/lpha/lphas.php.

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This publication provides topical information regarding young children who are cared for in child care settings. We encourage child care providers to make this publication available to parents of children in care or to provide them with the Web address: health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/newsletters.php so they can print their own copy.

This document is in the public domain and may be reprinted.

Alternate forms of this publication for persons with disabilities may be obtained by contacting the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Section for Child Care Regulation, P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO, 65102, 573.751.2450. Hearing- and speech-impaired citizens can dial 711. EEO/AAP services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Partial support for this newsletter is provided by: