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# Falls

## When and Where Fall Deaths and Injuries Occur

- ◆ More than 80% of fall related injuries among children ages 4 and under occur in the home. Among older children, ages 5 to 14, 45% of fall related injuries occur in the home and 23% occur at school.
- ◆ The majority of falls occur between noon and early evening, the most common playtime for children.

### Who is at Risk?

- ◆ Infants are at greater risk from falls associated with furniture, stairs, and baby walkers. Toddlers are predominantly at risk from window related falls and older children tend to suffer from playground equipment related falls.
- ◆ In general, children age 10 and under are injured from falls at a rate about twice that of the total population.
- ◆ Preschoolers are at the greatest risk.
- ◆ Males are twice as likely as females to die from fall related injuries.

## Prevention Tips

- ◆ Do not use baby walkers. Use safety gates at the top and bottom of stairs if there are infants and toddlers in the home.
- ◆ Move chairs and furniture away from windows.
- ◆ Avoid asphalt, concrete, grass, and soil surfaces under playground equipment.
- ◆ Acceptable loose fill materials for playgrounds include hardwood fiber mulch or chips, pea gravel, fine sand and shredded rubber. Surfacing should be maintained at a minimum depth of 9 to 12 inches and should extend a minimum of 6 feet in all directions around stationary equipment.

Georgia Emergency Medical Services for Children

