

Partners Promoting

Window and Balcony Safety



EMS Partners



Emergency Medical Care Inc.
Halifax



Program Goals

- Education
- Supervision
- Safety Devices



Topics of Discussion

- **Statistics**
- **Risk Factors**
- **By-laws**
- **Safety Devices**
- **Supervision and Prevention**
- **Costs**

Statistics



Toronto Statistics

**Toronto EMS recorded 50 falls
between 1999 and 2006**

- **9 Fatalities***
- **18 Serious / Critical injuries**
- **23 Minor injuries**

CHIRPP

Canadian Hospitals Reporting and Prevention Program

1990-2000:

- 362 children fell from windows
- Most were between 1 and 4 years old
- 32 concussions
- 43 skull fractures
- 52 fractured limbs

2 ½ yr old child fell 1.5 floors from window

Result: MINOR



2 ½ yr old child fell 3 floors from window

Result: MINOR



3 yr old child fell 3 floors from window

Result: SERIOUS / CRITICAL





4 yr old child

fell 6 floors from
balcony

Result: **SERIOUS /
CRITICAL**

6 yr old child fell 5 floors from window

Result: **FATALITY**





6 yr old child

fell 7 floors from
balcony

Result: **FATALITY**



5 yr old child
fell 12 floors from
window

Result: **FATALITY**

Risk Factors



Risk Factors

- It is easy to underestimate a child's abilities



- Children begin climbing before they can walk

Risk Factors

- Highest risk group:
1 to 4 years of age

CHIRRP



Risk Factors

- Items stored on balconies

Cluttered balcony

Clear balcony



Risk Factors



Precursor to falls

- Children playing near windows or on balconies

Risk Factors



- Bedroom furniture placed too close to windows

Does this room look safe?



**These are the
windows in
this room**

Bed Placement



- Climbing hazard
and
- Jumping hazard

Movable Objects



■ Chairs

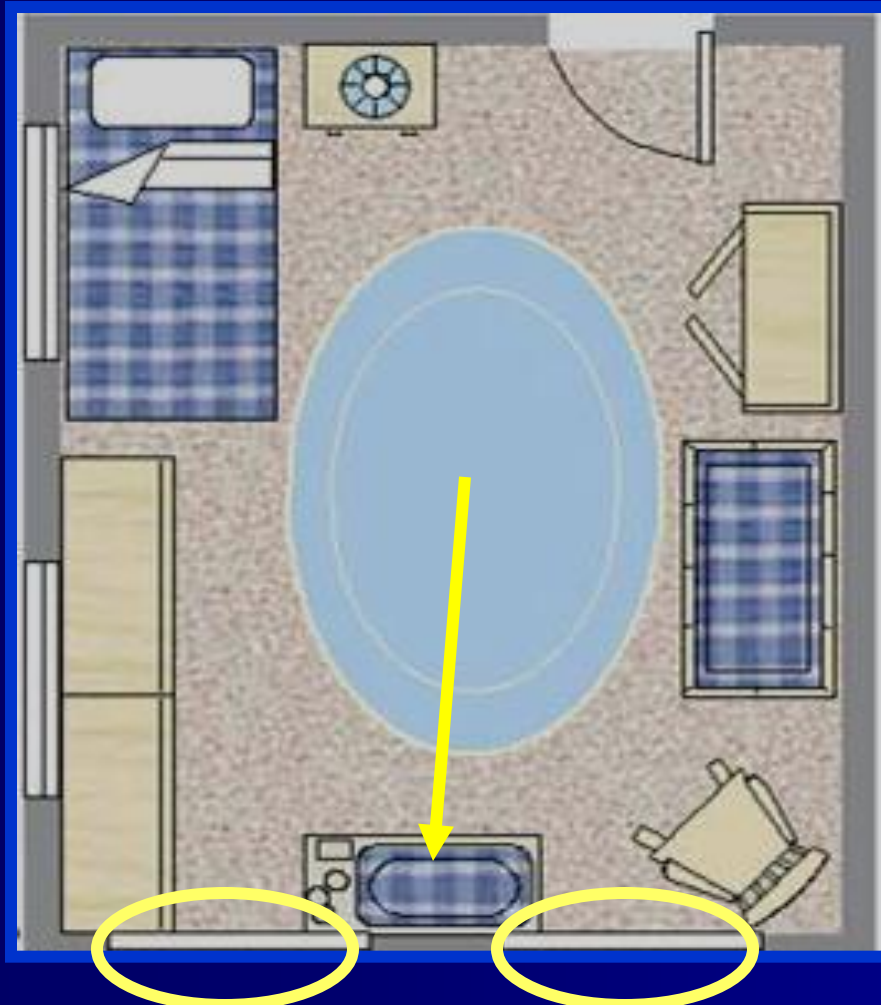
■ Toys

Window Ledges



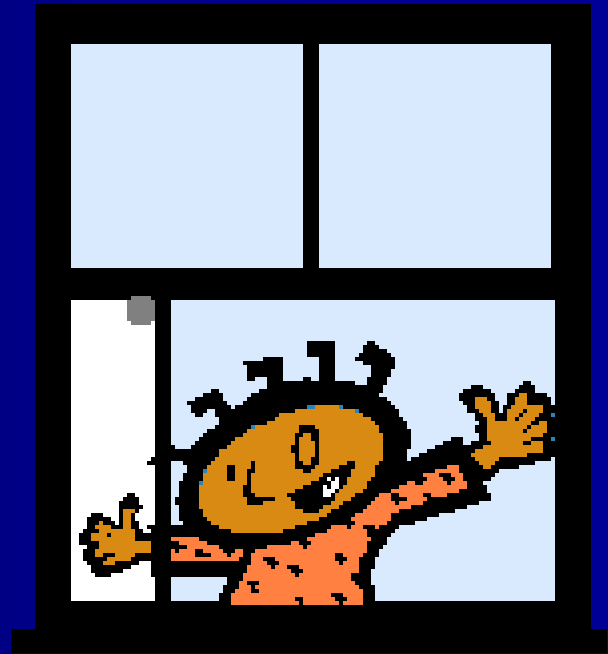
■ Dressers

Counters and Tables



- Change table

Safety Devices



By-Laws



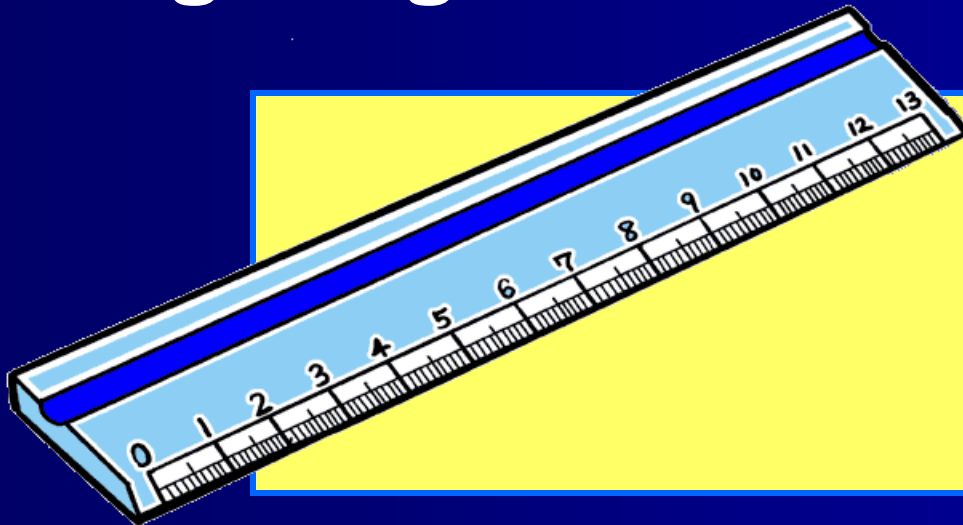
What are the by-laws in your community?

- Max. allowance for a window to open?
- Min. height of a balcony railing?
- Measurement between the balustrade?
- Building regulations for balcony furniture

National Building Code

Safe Distance:

- Openings: 10 cm (4 inches)
- Railing Height: 107 cm (42 inches)



Safety Devices-Windows



Slide guards



Wind-out guards



Window guards

Safety Devices-Doors



Safety latches

Responsibility

Landlords

- Provide safety devices

Parents

- Report missing devices
- Educate caregivers
- Educate children

Supervision & Prevention



Supervision

- The single most effective way to prevent window and balcony falls is direct **SUPERVISION**

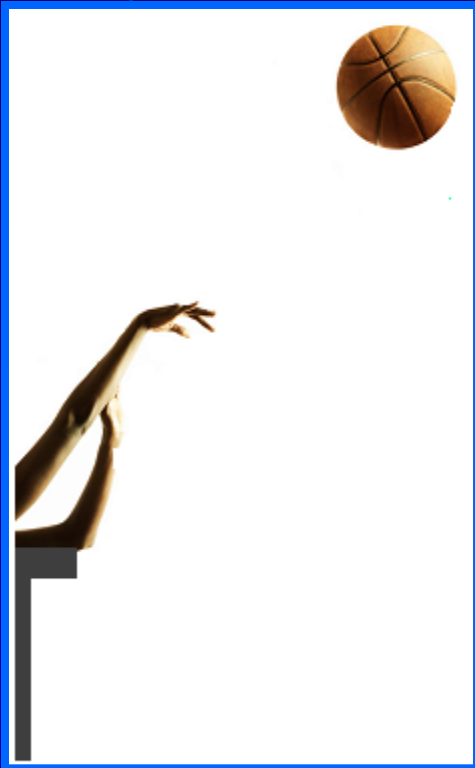


Educate Caregivers

- Inform caregivers of your child's abilities
- Show potential dangers
- Inform caregivers that screens are NOT a window safety device

Set a good example

Children love to copy adults



- ✘ Leaning over..
- ✘ Talking from..
- ✘ Throwing items off balconies

..shows your child that this is acceptable behavior



Safety Check



- ✓ **SUPERVISION**
- ✓ **Install safety devices**
- ✓ **Lock rooms that are not supervised**
- ✓ **Move items away from windows and off balconies**

Safety Check



- ✓ Do a safety check with your caregiver
- ✓ Set a good example
- ✓ Be aware that window blind cords are a choking hazard

Costs



The Costs of a Fall

- Highest personal injury settlement in Canada
- Life time health care costs in excess of **\$11,000,000**

Emotional/psychological costs are immeasurable



Memorial flowers of a 6 Year old male who fell 7 stories

**For Further
Information & Questions
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