



# Summer Safety Reminders from Child Care Regulation

Child Care Regulation (CCR) loves to see children enjoying the relaxing and fun summer days. However, you must stay diligent to ensure all children have a safe summer, especially as Texas continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic (don't forget to [wash your hands](#)). Please review the tips and resources below and reach out to your [local CCR office](#) if you have any questions or need additional assistance.

## Water Safety

If your operation is going to participate in water activities, on-site or off-site, it is critical that caregivers understand the risk associated with these activities.

**Drowning is silent.** Caregivers have to stay alert to the children in their care with constant, active supervision. Never leave children alone around water! This includes tubs, pools, wading pools, drainage ditches, creeks, ponds, or lakes.

- Constantly [watch children](#) who are playing in shallow water or swimming. A certified lifeguard must be on duty at all times when swimming in more than 2 feet of water.
- Prohibit children's direct access to swimming pools. Use fences, self-closing and latching gates. Ensure that children cannot leave the house through pet doors or unlocked doors to access pools or hot tubs.
- Store water toys away from the water source when not in use so they don't attract children.
- Caregiver ratios for water activities are determined by the youngest child in the group.
- Plan for emergencies. Keep emergency telephone numbers handy and stay current in CPR and first aid training.
- Weak and non-swimmers should wear only [US Coast Guard](#)-approved life jackets/personal flotation devices (PFD).
- Take [Free Water Safety Training](#) offered by Colin's Hope or a [Water Safety course](#) by the American Red Cross.
- Reminder: Cloth masks **should not be worn in the water**. Child Care operations can continue to track changes to the CDC's [Guidance for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19](#)

## Transportation Safety

- The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) recommends:
  - rear-facing car safety seats until 2 years or more;
  - forward-facing car safety seats from the time they outgrow rear-facing seats for most children through at least 4 years of age;
  - belt-positioning booster seats from the time they outgrow forward-facing seats for most children through at least 8 years of age; and
  - lap and shoulder seat belts for all who have outgrown booster seats.
- Never leave children unattended in the vehicle.
- Walk and check the inside of the vehicle, both in and under each seat and utilize your vehicle's child safety alarm, if applicable.
- Keep car keys out of children's reach.
- Always lock car doors and trunks, even in the garage or driveway.
- Use reminders that a child is in the back. Leave something you need in the back seat, like your purse, phone, or leave a stuffed animal or toy in the front seat.
- Talk to children about the dangers of playing around cars and watch them closely when cars are present.

## Preventing Heatstroke Resources

Children are more vulnerable to heatstroke than adults so please share the following links to tip sheets and resources with parents and providers to help remind everyone to look before you lock.

- [Tips to Avoid Child Heatstroke](#)
- [Preventing Heatstroke: What to Do If You See a Child Alone in a Car](#)
- [How Much Do You Know About Preventing Child Heatstroke](#): Take a quiz to learn how to prevent child heatstroke in cars
- [Steps to Prevent Heatstroke](#)
- [Where's Baby: Look Before You Lock](#): National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration educational campaign
- [Children in Hot Cars](#): free 15-minute training created by the National Safety Council
- [Chart for Vehicle Temperature](#): How hot is the inside of the vehicle? Check out this easy to view chart of outside temperatures and the impact inside a vehicle.

## Poison Safety

**Plants-** If you are allergic to poison ivy or poison oak, touching it can cause blisters or irritation on your skin. Remember the phrase, “leaves of three, let it be”.

**Snake Bites-** If a poisonous snake bites you or someone you know, immediately call the [Poison Help Line 1-800-222-2222](https://www.poisonhelp.org/).

**Spider Bites-** Most spider bites do not cause harm, but some are [venomous](#) and can cause people to become ill. Beware of female black widow and brown recluse bites.

## Emergency Preparedness

Several types of natural disasters can occur in Texas during the summer including hurricanes, flash flooding, and wildfires. Check out the following resources to ensure your operation is prepared in the event of an emergency: [American Red Cross](#), [Ready.gov](#), [TexasReady.gov](#), [Save the Children](#).

## COVID-19 Precautions for Child Care Programs

No matter the level of transmission in a community, every child care program should have a plan in place to protect staff, children, and their families from the spread of COVID-19.

Child care operations can continue to track changes to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s [Guidance for Operating Child Care Programs](#).