

CAN PLAY BE DANGEROUS?

WE ASKED THE DOCTORS AND NURSES WHO TREAT CHILDREN'S INJURIES

Preventable injuries are a leading cause of child death and disability in Canada. We asked the doctors and nurses who treat children's injuries how their experiences with children and families in the emergency department changed their play safety perspectives. This is what they had to say...



"I can feel some of the pain families go through."

— Mike



WHEN WORKING IN THE ED, DOCTORS AND NURSES CAN FEEL...

- **Concern** for the injured child and their family
- **Distress** when a child is in pain and/or a family is grieving
- **Sadness** when they are unable to save a child from injury

PLAY CAN BE DANGEROUS WHEN...

It involves being close to

- Busy streets or motor vehicles
- Large animals
- Open windows
- Bodies of water
- Large and loose household objects

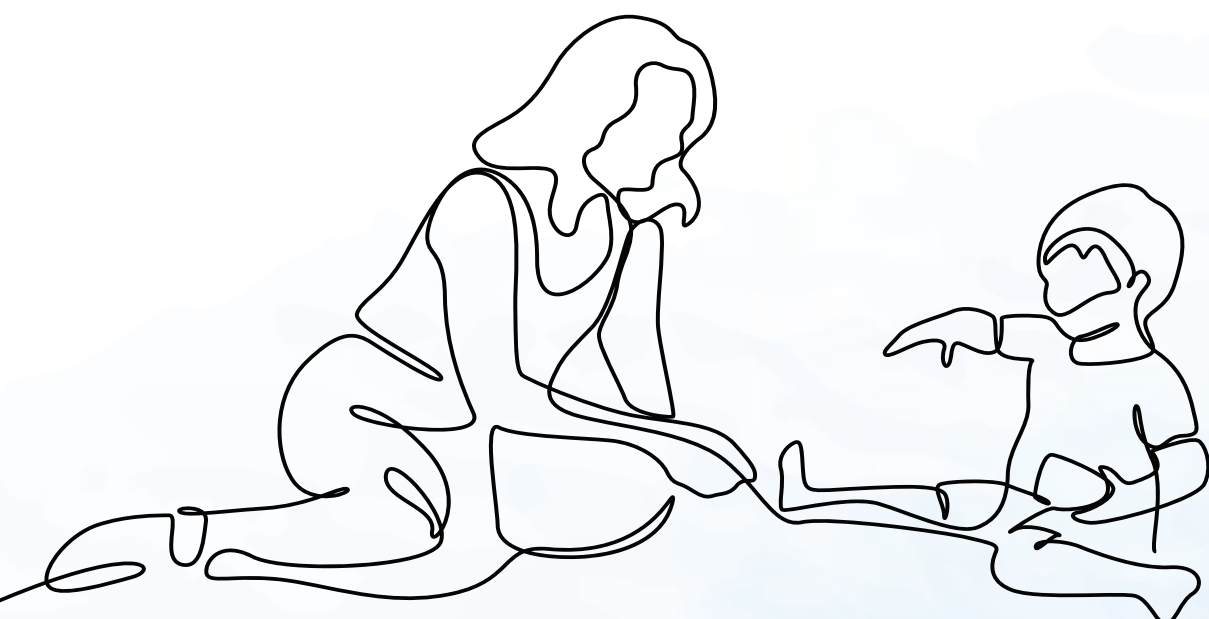
"A little girl, probably no more than three, was hit by a car ... you just recognize that life is fragile."

— Greg



"When we go boating or to the beach, we always have eyes on the kids."

— Paula



EXPOSURE TO TRAUMATIC INJURY CAN CHANGE HOW PRACTITIONERS VIEW PLAY SAFETY:

- **Enforce boundaries** to where their child can play (e.g., prevent playing near motor vehicles)
- **Enforce children's use of safety equipment**, such as helmets on a bicycle and lifejackets/PFDs when swimming
- **Teach children safety strategies** about animals, roads, and water to prepare them to handle potentially scary or dangerous environments and activities

SO WHAT?

Witnessing children experience injuries requiring an emergency room visit and seeing families sad and in pain can be distressing for doctors and nurses! They can be afraid other children will experience similar injuries to their patients and try to prevent these injuries from happening.