

Letter to Parents

1929

*Protect your children from accidents, that they
will not be crippled nor killed.*

*To the Mothers and Fathers
of Ontario*

Greetings :

**Ontario needs strong girls and
boys, healthy in minds and
bodies, to grow into worth-while
women and men, and we ask
your assistance and co-operation
to that end.**

Ontario Safety League



ONTARIO SAFETY LEAGUE

Member of

Canadian National Safety League

T O R O N T O



TO MOTHERS

In all large industrial plants, factories, workshops, etc., where there are a great many workers employed, there is generally a Safety Engineer whose duties are to look for and remedy unsafe conditions and hazards, and to look after the Safety of the workmen generally.

So it is with the Mother in the home. She is the Safety Engineer of the household and she has to use her head all the time to be sure that her children will grow up whole and sound. Most children's accidents are due to their curiosity and limited experience and almost all accidents are preventable.

In factories, safety devices have been installed on machines to protect workmen. These safeguards protect them from only a small number of accidents. The workman must use his head, that is the one sure protection.

In the home, there may be dangers all around for small children and others, and there are not always safety devices to protect them. More accidents would happen in the home were it not for the eternal vigilance of the Mother—the Safety Engineer of the home. Until children are big enough to be cautious as well as curious, the mother's duties require her to put away sharp knives, scissors and other sharp pointed utensils each time after using them. She cannot trust a small child to play with such things. The mother must be on her guard—turning the spout of the tea kettle toward the back of the stove, and the spout of the tea pot or percolator toward the centre of the table. These precautions will often prevent a painful burn or scald.

The mother has to teach her small children safety just as the foreman in the factory teaches his men safety. The child must be taught that matches are dangerous playthings and the mother must see that they are kept in a safe place out of the reach of little hands. A child seldom repeats a painful or uncomfortable experience and his curiosity disappears when his feelings or senses are hurt.

The little toddler just learning to walk reaches for the hot iron. The Mother can then teach him a lesson by holding his hand close enough to the iron for him to feel the heat uncomfortably. He is then sure not to touch it again and also other things that are hot, such as the range, radiator or tea pot.

When the baby is put down on the floor to amuse itself, make sure there are no small objects such as pins, tacks, seeds, etc., on the floor. Small particles such as marbles, jacks, buttons, pebbles, etc., are unsafe playthings, and may get lodged in the baby's throat.

It is quite natural for children to imitate grown-ups, so the mother and big sister must put a guard on their actions. Little girls often put pins in their mouths when dressing or sewing for their dolls—they have seen their elders do this. They like to try to operate the range, washing machine, sewing machine or iron and to use the scissors and hammer. The little folks can be taught the use of things through toys, for example, a light toy hammer like daddy's or a small pair of dull rounded scissors like mothers.

Having plenty of light throughout the house will prevent many falls. Lights on porches are more welcome than the letters "W-e-l-c-o-m-e" on the door mat. There should be lights at the head and foot of all stairways. Stairs are poor

storage places for brooms, mops, etc. Safe bannisters and railings safeguarding young and old should be sufficiently high and strong. Where there are babies or small children the stairways should be protected by gates.

Attracted by a crowd gathered around a little child who had been knocked down by an automobile, a curious woman found the victim was her own little daughter. Carefree and happy the child had passed between two parked cars on to the roadway, and did not see the approaching motor. You Mothers should see that the little children are not allowed out on the streets alone and should remember the importance of teaching your children how to cross the streets safely.

Do not leave the children alone in the house. If it is necessary to go out, even for a short while, secure the services of some competent adult with whom you can trust your children. Records show that many innocent little lives have been snuffed out by the house taking fire during the parent's absence. Small children should never be left alone.

TO FATHERS

Teach your children to swim. You owe this to them not only for the sport they may derive from it, but for their own safety. Instruct them also in the Prone Pressure Method of Resuscitation that they may, if the opportunity offers, save the life of another. If you are not familiar with this method of resuscitating a person apparently drowned, or dead from electrocution, gas poisoning, etc., send to the Ontario Safety League for a copy of the instructions, and learn the rules from the instructions.

Children who are too small to swim should not be allowed to play near or in the water without the protection of an adult. All children should swim only in protected areas and always with a companion who can swim. Warn your children not to go into deep water.

As a pedestrian or motorist, learn the rules of the road and obey them. Teach them to the children. Warn them to cross the roadway only at the regular street intersections, and never to cross the street without first looking to the left and then to the right. This is playing fair with the motorist who is not expecting anyone to dart out onto the roadway in the middle of the block. Warn the children not to ride on the running board of a car, nor to sit on, or lean against the door of a car while it is in motion. Show them the danger of "hooking" rides on the rear of trucks or waggons and how they may fall off and be crushed by the car behind. Children observe very closely the habits and practices of their elders. As a motorist always drive carefully and remember that Care, Courtesy and Common Sense point to Safe Driving.

Be careful with matches, cigar or cigarette stubs that you throw away. Be sure the fire is dead. These are responsible for many fires each year and often children pick them up, burn themselves, or set fire to their clothing. Practice the safe way of handling fire of all kinds. Do not let rubbish accumulate in your basement or backyard. It may cause a fire at some unexpected time. Show your boy where the nearest fire alarm box is located and how to send in an alarm.

If your boy has a bicycle, instruct him in the proper use of same that he may not be a menace on the highways. Slowly moving traffic must keep to the ex-

treme right. This applies to bicycles as well as to trucks. See that the bicycle is equipped with a light and a bell.

Are your household ladders in a safe condition? Ladders should be repaired carefully when cross bars are cracked or broken. Ladders should be placed against solid objects when used. Step ladders should have all four feet on the floor and the braces set. Many fatalities and lesser accidents occur from the careless use of ladders.

Warn children against playing with gas jets and stoves. Inspect the connections (with a flashlight) periodically to see that there are no leaks. Cords on the electric appliances should be examined often and repairs made in time to prevent someone getting shocked or electrocuted.

If you must warm your bathroom with an Electric Heater, place it where it cannot be reached while the person bathing is in the water. The connection may mean instant death.

Keep all firearms out of the reach of children. Children should not be allowed to handle them. Regard all firearms as loaded and treat them accordingly. Blasting caps contain one of the most dangerous explosives. Warn the children against handling them. If one should be found tell them to report it to a responsible older person at once.

Warn children to keep away from buildings in the course of construction and not to go near places where repair work is under way or where material is liable to fall upon them.

Teach children to identify poisonous weeds that grow in the woods and warn them against tasting wild berries, roots or leaves of any kind with which they are not familiar.

Teach your boy to be watchful for unsafe conditions around the home and to report them to you or to his mother. The upturned nail, broken glass, tin cans, etc., left lying around present unnecessary hazards, and many painful and fatal injuries result therefrom. Teach your boy the proper use of a jack knife, always to cut away from the body and never to run or play with open knife blades in the hands or pocket.

It is only by the co-operation of all in the home that we can reduce to a minimum the dreadful toll that we are paying to preventable accidents each year. It is up to you, Parents of Ontario, to do your part, and to instruct your children in the safe way of doing things. The right way is the safe way, and the safe way is the right way.



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J. F. H. Wyse, General Manager

