

Warm Weather Safety

Here are some tips for keeping children safe in warm weather:

- **Never leave children alone in hot vehicles!** Many centers have installed monitors that require drivers to thoroughly check a vehicle before the driver leaves. If your center has not installed a monitor, instruct drivers to maintain an active check-in and check-out procedure.
- **Apply sunscreen that is SPF-15 or higher.** Get parents' or guardians' permission before applying sunscreen— some children are allergic. If this is the case, ensure they wear sun-protective clothing outdoors.
- **Keep children properly hydrated.** Encourage children to drink plenty of fluids, and schedule water breaks every 15 to 20 minutes.
- **Check the CPSC for recalls of outdoor play equipment.** Periodically check their web site, www.cpsc.gov, for recalls of defective toys, play equipment, and impact-absorbent ground cover.
- **Inspect your premises for insects.** Yellow-jacket and wasp's nests can develop overnight, so inspect play areas and equipment daily. If you find a nest, contact an exterminator immediately.
- **Keep children indoors when the weather gets hot.** Temperatures above 90 degrees can be unhealthy for children.
- **Provide extra supervision at swimming pools.** Never allow children to play near an unsupervised swimming pool. Children need careful supervision around any body of water, including tubs, pails, sinks, toilets, ponds, and irrigation and run-off ditches. Don't use floats or other training devices; they give a false sense of confidence. In addition to teachers, always have certified lifeguards at swimming pools.

The chart shows the recommended child-to-staff ratios, **not including the lifeguard**, at swimming pools:

Child's Age	Child-to-Staff Ratio
0 to 3	1:1
3 to 5	4:1
5 and above	6:1