Playing It Safe

It's finally summer in Cleveland! Time for your kids to soak up the sun! While fresh air and exercise are good, all that fun can involve hazards, such as head injuries and heatstroke.

Parents can gain peace of mind by taking safety precautions, says Emory Petrack, MD, medical director of Cleveland Clinic Children's Pediatric Emergency Department (ED) at Fairview Hospital. "Roughly 90 percent of accidents can be

prevented," he says. Dr. Petrack gives the following advice:

- Make sure your children wear helmets, kneepads and other protective gear.
- Never leave children alone in the car. In 2010, at least 49 children died in the U.S. due to heatstroke from being left in hot vehicles.
- Apply insect repellent and keep an allergy kit on hand for children with allergies.

Finally, know what to do in case of emergencies. If your child suffers a medical emergency, the highest level of pediatric care is at Fairview Hospital. Our new pediatric ED is staffed 24/7 by Cleveland Clinic Children's physicians specially trained in pediatric emergency care and registered nurses certified in Pediatric Advanced Life Support. And should your child need it, our pediatric ED is supported by our dedicated pediatric inpatient unit and pediatric specialists from Cleveland Clinic Children's.

As part of Fairview Hospital's newly expanded Emergency Department and Intensive Care Unit, Cleveland Clinic Children's Pediatric Emergency Department offers a full range of pediatric care 24/7. The family-friendly environment features a separate waiting room and pediatric-only treatment rooms equipped to treat everything from unexpected illness to severe injuries. In an emergency, call 911 and ask to be transported to Cleveland Clinic Children's Pediatric Emergency Department at Fairview Hospital. For more information, visit fairviewhospital.org/pedsED.



Emory Petrack, MD

