

Safe kids Healthy kids Happy kids

CHILDREN GET HURT ON ESCALATORS

Escalators injure nearly 2000 children each year. Most of them are under age five.

Over 50% of all escalator injuries are due to falls. Older children are the most likely to get injured from a fall. Younger children are more likely to become entrapped. Their small hands and feet can get caught between the moving escalator steps and the side wall that does not move. In some cases, a child's hand or foot could be severely injured or even cut off. A small number of children under age 5 were injured when they fell out of their stroller while riding on the escalator.

Parents must watch their children carefully when they are near or on an escalator.

- Teach your child to ride the escalator safely. Show them how to get on and off. Teach them to hold onto rail while riding.
- Stay near your child while riding the escalator.
- Do not allow children to play near escalators.
- Whenever possible, take an elevator. Ask for help to find the elevator in stores and airports that have escalators.

- Never transport your child by stroller on an escalator. If you must use the escalator, remove your child from the stroller. Carry your child, and keep one hand free to hold onto the rail. Holding on helps you keep your balance.
- Make sure your children are not wearing drawstrings, loose shoelaces, scarves or mittens while riding an escalator. Clothing can get caught in the moving stairway. The moving stairway can pull their hands and feet into the moving parts and cause injuries.

Escalators look like fun to a child. However, they are not an amusement park ride or toy. Practice and teach safety skills so your child can ride without getting hurt.



Brought to you by Parent Help Line and St. John's Children's Hospital



Call the Parent Help Line. Help is just a phone call away.
1-217-544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week
www.parenthelpline.org

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St. John's Hospital
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