

IHSA Advisor June/July 2018

Summer's finally here!! Sort of! As I write this, I have a fleece jacket on and it's been rainy and in the 60's in my neck of the woods. So spring maybe is here. At least I see flowers and green grass out my window and the birds are back building their nest on my front porch. (And making a mess, I might say! But they were so cute last year. Here's a picture. See those 4 little birds. However did they all get in that nest???)

I have several wonderful links to articles this month about fun in the sun and cautions too. Take a look.



Messy Play



[Mud—an invitation to messy play](#)

Most preschool children love playing with mud. This open-ended material appeals to younger children who enjoy its sensory squishiness and to older children who mold it into pies and infrastructure. Playing with mud helps children learn and grow in many areas. > [Read More](#)

Sun Safety: Information for Parents about Sunburn & Sunscreen

It's good for children and adults to spend time playing and exercising outdoors, and it's important to do so safely. Here's a great link to sun safety!

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-play/Pages/Sun-Safety.aspx>



Car Seats: Information for Families



One of the most important jobs you have as a parent is keeping your child safe when riding in a vehicle. Each year, thousands of young children are killed or injured in car crashes. Proper use of car safety seats helps keep children safe. But with so many different seats on the market, many parents find this overwhelming. If you are expectant parents, give yourselves enough time to learn how to properly install the car safety seat in your car before your baby is born to ensure a safe ride home from the hospital. See the link below for more information about car seat safety.

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/on-the-go/Pages/Car-Safety-Seats-Information-for-Families.aspx>

Prevent Child Deaths in Hot Cars

A child left in a hot car can die of heat stroke very quickly. But this tragedy can be prevented. Here are some facts about hot cars and keeping kids safe:



<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/on-the-go/Pages/Prevent-Child-Deaths-in-Hot-Cars.aspx>

Be SMART with gun storage

Every year nearly 300 children 17 and younger unintentionally discharge a gun and kill or injure themselves or others. Those most at risk of dying from a self-inflicted, unintentional gunshot are children ages 2, 3, and 4.

In addition, more than 75 percent of unintentional shootings by children occur in the victim's home or car. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics a gun kept in the home is far more likely to kill someone known to the family than to kill or injure an intruder.

Many unintentional shootings can be prevented with responsible gun storage, such as by locking a firearm and storing it unloaded and separately from ammunition.

Consider these five SMART safety steps:

- Secure guns in homes and vehicles.
- Model responsible behavior.
- Ask about unsecured guns in the homes of your child's friends.
- Recognize the risk of teen suicide.
- Tell others to be SMART.

Check out these EXCELLENT websites with numerous resources you can use with your families! <http://besmartforkids.org/about/>

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Handguns-in-the-Home.aspx>

A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O-P-Q-R-S-T-U-V-W-X-Y-Z

“Let’s Stop Talking about the 30 Million Word Gap”

Did you know that kids growing up in poverty hear 30 million fewer words by age 3? Chances are, if you're the type of person who reads a newspaper or listens to NPR, you've heard that statistic before.

Since 1992, this finding has, with unusual power, shaped the way educators, parents and policymakers think about educating poor children.

But did you know that the number comes from just one study, begun almost 40 years ago, with just 42 families? That some people argue it contained a built-in **racial bias**? Or that others, including the authors of a new study that calls itself a "failed replication," say it's just wrong?

Read more here and see what you think! (from NPR)

<https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2018/06/01/615188051/lets-stop-talking-about-the-30-million-word-gap>

OPIOID USE

How Head Start and Child Care Programs Can Help

Head Start, home visitors, and child care staff often have a window into the real-life circumstances and needs of families. You may be the front-line in identifying issues that signal substance misuse. It can be hard to navigate these complex situations, but you have unique opportunities to engage families and even prevent harm to children. The Head Start website, ECLKC, under Mental Health, has a wealth of resources that may be useful for you and your staff.

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/mental-health/article/substance-misuse>

Look for an informative webinar about Opioid Use and Illinois soon to be on the Partner Plan Act website. <http://partnerplanact.org/webinars/>

Upcoming Conferences

[Summer Institute on the Project Approach](#), July 23–27, Davenport, IA

[ILAEYC Growing Futures Conference](#), Oct. 18–20, Peoria, IL

Prevent Child Abuse Conference, Oct. 25-26, Springfield, IL
<http://www.preventchildabuseillinois.org/conference-about>