

What are we doing for child safety and injury prevention?

- Research
- Education
- Advocacy, policy and legislation

Research

- Since 1991, CAPFSA has systematically kept a computerised database of all injured children presenting to the Red Cross Children's Hospital Trauma Unit in Cape Town. This database serves as the major resource for childhood injuries in South Africa.
- Academic articles on injury data.



Legislative Advocacy

- Involvement in legislative advocacy varies according to the development of state policies, programmes and legislation.
- Participation in the legislative process in South Africa by making submissions to new legislation while it is still in bill form. CAPFSA furthermore makes recommendations for legislation and specifications on products that are used by children.



Education and Information

Education and promotion of public awareness is achieved through:

- Leaflets, posters, booklets, videos, materials for exhibitions, programmes for children and adults, books, media.
- Lectures, workshops and training courses, Community based prevention programmes,
- Resource Centre at the Red Cross Children's Hospital Cape Town, Staff Education Building, Rondebosch, Cape Town.



Legislation and Advocacy Campaigns

- CAPFSA participates wherever possible in campaigns and lobbies around issues of child rights and injury prevention as they arise and become relevant.



Contact Details:

Physical Address Head Office

Staff Education Building
Red Cross Children's Hospital
Klipfontein Road
Rondebosch
Cape Town, South Africa



Postal Address:

P.O. Box 791, Rondebosch, 7701,
Cape Town, South Africa
Tel: +27 21 6855208 (Cape Town)
+27 11 7924332 (Gauteng)
Fax: +27 21 6855331
E-mail: capfsa@pgwc.gov.za or
Website: www.childsafe.org.za
NPO 003-467



CAPFSA
Child Accident
Prevention
Foundation of
Southern Africa



Balancing caution with adventure

CAPFSA

Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa

The CAPFSA Logo signifies the balance between cautious controlled behaviour and normal adventurous childhood activities and behaviour.

A child's life represents a balance between natural abandon of childhood and essential controls that ensure the safety of the child.

It is this precarious balance, which is captured in the logo of CAPFSA. The losses incurred when the balance is disturbed can be enormous.



If we take the health of children in South Africa serious, we will prevent 'accidents' rather than treat injuries.

Vision

To create a safer world for children



Mission

The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa (CAPFSA) promotes optimal health and development of all children in South Africa.



CAPFSA aims to reduce and prevent intentional and unintentional injuries of all severity through research, education, environmental change and recommendations for legislation.



To achieve this we work in co-operation with government, industry, non-governmental and community based organisations, community groups and individuals.



CAPFSA

believes all children have a right to grow and flourish in a safe environment without the threat of being hurt.

In 1978 the vision of the Chief Surgeon at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Cape Town encompassed the establishment of the Child Safety Centre in response to the massive number of child injuries encountered in the Trauma Unit of the Red Cross Children's Hospital. The Child Safety Centre was formed and from the beginning the Centre focused on education, research and advocacy. Support from the Department of Paediatric Surgery was essential in the development of the Child Safety Centre.

By 1987 the Centre had grown and it was officially constituted as the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa (CAPFSA).

- Non-fatal injuries effect the lives of between 10 million and 30 million children and adolescents worldwide each year
- Many injuries occur in the home or while at play. (Source: WHO)

Childhood injury in South Africa is an unrelenting public health problem of epidemic proportions. Each day more than 10 children under the age of fifteen years die of road traffic crashes, drowning, poisoning, burns, violence and other physical hazards present in an environment created by adults.

Injuries destroy the health, lives and independence of thousands of children.

Facts on childhood injuries

- Injuries are a leading cause of death in children and South Africa is no exception.
- More than 875 000 children under the age of 18 years die from injury every year.
- Thousands of unnecessary deaths occur, particular to children aged between 1 and 18 years.
- The two leading causes of child and adolescent deaths are road traffic crashes and drowning.



Most accidents can be predicted and prevented

