INTRODUCTION TO CHILDSAFE SOUTH AFRICA

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Africa

- 2nd largest & populous continent
- ~1.2 Billion people
- ~750 million children
South Africa

- ~ 55 million people
- ~ 29 million children
- ~ 500,000 are disabled children
Vision

“To create a safer world for children”
Where?

Childsafe South Africa

Cape Town Office Headquarters

1. Research

2. Education

3. Advocacy

KwaZulu Natal
Mission

“To reduce intentional and unintentional injuries of all severity”
History

- Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa (CAPFSA) since 1978

- Started by Professor Cywes (Head of Paediatric Surgery)

- Accidents an important cause of child admissions to hospital
History cont…

- World a dangerous place for children
- Even more so the poor countries
- Rather focus on one step prevention areas – vaccinations
- Injury prevention is not a government priority & not reflected in policies and plans
- Prevention is more expensive, labor intensive and unending; across the lifespan
- Child growing up in Cape Town 25 times more likely to be admitted to hospital compared to a child in Birmingham, UK!!
Main killers of children (1 – 18 years old)

1. Motor vehicle crashes
   - Pedestrian (80%)
   - Passengers (20%)

2. Drowning

3. Burns
Each child is a vulnerable number
How do we do it?

1. Research
2. Education
3. Advocacy

Creating a safer world for children
Activities

- Research
- Interventions
- Advocacy
- Awareness
Research

- What injuries / accidents?
- Where do they happen?
- Why? (What are the causes)
- What can/could be done about it?
Education

- Community based child safety educational programs at schools & supply of life skills curriculum
- Media Campaigns
- Annual National Child Safety Month - August
- General Child Safety Courses for Community Health Educators, ECD Practitioners
- Childsafe Quarterly Newsletter
- Safer Candle Project
- Local & international conferences to raise awareness
Child safety posters

**Growing Safely**

- **0 to 6 months**
  - Needs 100% protection
  - Rolls over
  - Reaches for objects
  - Puts objects in mouth

- **6 months to 1 year**
  - Sits up
  - Crawls
  - Pulls up to stand
  - Takes first steps
  - Fingers out of reach

- **1 to 2 years**
  - No idea of danger
  - Walks and climbs
  - Turns around and falls
  - Pedestrian awareness

- **2 to 3 years**
  - Quick and unpredictable
  - Jumps
  - Walks and runs
  - Climbs

- **3 to 6 years**
  - Fearless
  - Explores with little thought of danger
  - Fast
  - Smart

**Living Safely**

- **0 to 6 months**
  - Helps a child from burns
  - Needs 100% protection
  - Reaches for objects
  - Puts objects in mouth

- **6 months to 1 year**
  - Sits up
  - Crawls
  - Pulls up to stand
  - Takes first step
  - Fingers out of reach

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**First Aid Actions**

- **Put out fires when kindled**
- **Use safety在家 with safety rules**
- **Watch the child play safely**

**Burn Prevention**
Advocacy

Legislation regarding:

- Manufacturing of SABS approved child restraints for the use in motor vehicles
- Children’s furniture
- New Firearms bill
- Child restraints for 0 - 3 year olds
Current Projects

TV adverts
Walk This Way Project
Aim: Pedestrian safety of primary school children

• Locations: Western Cape (8 schools) & Gauteng (2 schools)

Key Action 1: To assess the schools road safety needs.
• Through PhotoVoice research methodology
• Serves to mobilize & enable learners to communicate what they perceive as risk & protective road situations

Key Action 2: Impart road safety knowledge & skills to learners & educators using a training, feedback & reinforcement package.
Aim cont…

Key Action 3: To introduce environmental modifications to the school environment.

- To reduce driver speed
Visibility efforts

• Tracksuits (vs reflective beeps) - emphasize biometric characteristics which makes it more visible to drivers from all angles of the child’s body
• Effortless - part of school of uniform, therefore sustainable
Safe Travel to School Programme
Thank you!!!

- Child safety should become the Number 1 health priority in Africa!

- Website: www.childsafe.org.za