

## Module 2: Preventing Childhood Injuries

---

### Handout D: Program Safety Check

---

**Who?** Safety is everyone’s business! Head Start staff and parents must make sure that the play areas and activities are safe. Community volunteers can help. Children can help too—you can make up a “hazard hunt” for them.

**When?** Do program safety checks at least every month.

**What?** Every part of the Head Start program must be safe—all areas of the facility and all activities.

**How?** Use the *Health and Safety Checklist* (see Appendix 2) to check the following:

- General Indoor Areas
- Toys and Equipment
- Hallways and Stairs
- Kitchen and Food Preparation and Storage Areas
- Bathrooms
- Active Play Areas Including Playgrounds:
  - Surfacing
  - Fall Zones
  - Protrusions and Entanglements
  - Entrapment
  - Equipment Spacing
  - Trip Hazards
  - Appropriate Activities and Equipment
  - Pinch, Crush, and Shearing Points
  - Guardrails, Handrails, & Safety Barriers
  - Unsafe Equipment
  - Maintenance
  - Supervision
  - Slides
  - Sand
  - Swings
  - Multiaxis Tire Swings
  - Climbers
  - Merry-Go-Rounds
  - Spring Rocking Equipment
  - Other Hazards
- Swimming Pools
- Emergency Preparedness
- Vehicles

**Why?** Together, we can prevent children’s injuries in Head Start!