



MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
THE MARY ANN KNIGHT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PEDIATRICS
 FOUNDED AS VARIETY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

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CHILDREN'S HEALTH TALK

A Miami Children's Hospital Community Update, June 2005

MIAMI CHILDREN'S TRAUMA CENTER REPORTS SURGE IN CHILD INJURIES

"You never think something like this will happen to you," said Ofelia Montes de Oca of Miami, whose son Roberto Reina was severely injured in an all terrain vehicle (ATV) crash last January.

Roberto, 14, was rushed by helicopter to Miami Children's Hospital's Trauma Center after leaping from the out-of-control vehicle as it careened across a field at 50 miles per hour. The boy underwent emergency surgery to repair injuries to his digestive system and a badly damaged three-foot section of his small intestine was removed.

Roberto is not alone. The Miami Children's Trauma Center – the only freestanding pediatric trauma center in South Florida – has tracked a significant increase in ATV-related injuries and other traumas, including drownings and injuries related to vehicle crashes.

A comparison of data collected by the Trauma Center in the years 2000 and 2004 shows a 400 percent increase in crashes of ATVs and small motorized vehicles, a 32 percent increase in near drownings/drownings and a 30 percent increase in injuries associated with motor vehicle crashes.

Summer Sparks Increase in Trauma Cases

Not surprisingly, summer is a time of year when trauma incidents surge. Here's how to protect the

children in your life:

Moped/ATV: "We discourage families from acquiring ATVs or mopeds for children under 18," said Malvin Weinberger, Medical Director of Trauma Services. If families do purchase them, Dr. Weinberger advises they acquire one that meets the manufacturer's guidelines relative to the age of



Dr. Weinberger, Medical Director of the Trauma Center, with patient Roberto Reina.

the child. Most serious injuries occur when children are riding the adult-size vehicles, which are capable of much higher speeds and are more difficult to control. Children operating any type of wheeled vehicle – whether motor-driven or pedal-powered – must wear an appropriate helmet.

Water Safety: "Most people think they'll hear sounds of distress when a child is in trouble in the water. But they won't. A drowning is a silent event. In fact, many incidents

occur while an adult is sitting nearby, reading or talking," said Dr. Weinberger. It's essential that an adult be designated to keep an eye on swimming children at all times. To prevent children from wandering into an unsupervised pool, all pools should be fenced on all sides. To keep adults focused on who is to watch young swimmers, Miami Children's Hospital and the SAFEKIDS Coalition have created a "Water Watcher Card." Adults can pass the large laminated card from one to another during a swim day to ensure that at least one adult at a time is monitoring swimming children. To receive a free card, call 305-663-8476.

Automobile Crashes: Most serious injuries related to vehicle crashes involve children or adults who were not wearing appropriate restraints. Infants should always ride facing the rear of the vehicle and in the back seat. Children under 8 years and 80 pounds should be in a car seat or booster seat appropriate to the child's age when traveling. Since most child restraints are improperly utilized, families are encouraged to take advantage of Miami Children's free car seat inspection service. Child passenger safety technicians will check your child's seat for defects, recalls, installation and fit. For more information, call 305-663-6800.

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MIAMI'S FAVORITE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN

Miami Children's Hospital's Emergency Department continues to rack up recognition, again receiving both regional and national customer service honors in recent



weeks. This is a solid achievement for a department that is one of the *five busiest* pediatric emergency departments in the nation, providing care for more than 90,000 patients annually.

For the fourth straight year, the hospital was selected as the best for pediatric Emergency Care in Miami-Dade County by *South Florida Parenting* magazine, which again honored the hospital with one of its Kids Crown awards.

On the national front, Miami Children's Emergency Department was recognized in April by the Jackson Organization, a national survey research firm. The Jackson Organization presented the hospital's Emergency Department with an award for sustaining the highest levels of customer satisfaction in 2004 among surveyed pediatric hospitals nationwide. The department was also honored by the Jackson Organization in 2003.

The Jackson Organization performs customer satisfaction surveys for more than 200 healthcare clients throughout the country. Each year, it recognizes clients that achieve the best levels of employee satisfaction during the previous calendar year.

"Emergency departments across the country are busier than ever," said Richard Dellerson, MD, board-certified emergency medicine physician and Administrative Director of Emergency Services at Miami Children's Hospital. "Our success in maintaining reasonable wait times and high customer satisfaction is a tribute to the commitment and innovation of the entire Emergency Department team."

For a referral to a Miami Children's Hospital physician, please call 888-MCH-DOCS (624-3627).

COMMUNITY EDUCATION CALENDAR

Summer Safety Fair and Teddy Bear Clinic

Saturday, June 18, 10 am to 1 pm

Prepare your children for a safe summer. We will provide information on child abduction prevention, first aid, swimming safety, avoiding burns and sunburns and bike safety. A Teddy Bear Clinic will be offered to children 2-12 years of age. Children will learn about medical equipment, the body, health habits and safety via hands-on activities and demonstrations. Please call 305-662-8282 for further information.

Stranger Danger

Saturday, July 9, 2:30 pm to 5 pm

This workshop, sponsored by Miami Children's and the Child Assault Prevention Project of South Florida (CAP), helps parents and children ages 5 to 12 prevent stranger danger and abduction. Children and parents will learn how to identify a stranger, child protection awareness, techniques strangers use, strategies on what to do when confronted

with a stranger and self defense. For more information, call CAP at 305-377-2277.

Safe Sitter

July 15 & 16

This class teaches 11- to 15-year-olds how to baby sit safely. The class provides developmentally appropriate activities, feeding and bedtime routines to help teens and preteens care for babies and young children. Please call the Department of Preventive Medicine at 305-662-8282 for further information.

Spanish CPR Class

July 22, 6 pm to 8 pm

This course in pediatric CPR teaches parents, grandparents and caregivers how to administer CPR to infants and children. Please call 305-662-8282 for further information.

Child Passenger Safety

Child safety is our priority. Child passenger safety technicians will check your child's seat for defects, recalls, installation and fit. Please call 305-663-6800 for further information.

NO ONE KNOWS CHILDREN LIKE MIAMI CHILDREN'S.



There's no greater love than a parent's love for a child. It's a love that we at Miami Children's Hospital share. It's why we've been caring for children for over 55 years, longer than any other children's hospital in South Florida. And why we've been recognized as one of the top children's hospitals in the U.S. for the past three years by *U.S. News & World Report*. No matter where you live, no hospital comes close to the kind of pediatric care your child receives at Miami Children's.

MCH is renowned throughout the world. Nowhere will you find physicians more experienced, facilities as advanced, or a staff more devoted to children. We're South Florida's only licensed specialty hospital *exclusively* for children. And that means we have an understanding of children's physical and emotional needs that no other hospital can offer. Your child means so much to you. Choose the hospital that truly knows them best, Miami Children's.



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