STUDENT SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

JANUARY | 2027

New year, fresh start, safer kids! January is the perfect time to build good safety habits as families settle back into routines and winter weather continues. Safe Kids Grand Forks has practical tips to help keep children safe at home, on the road, and during winter fun!

Counterfeit Car Seats: Know the Warning Signs!

Not all car seats sold online are safe! Counterfeit seats may look legitimate but often lack required safety features and crash testing. Protect your child by knowing what to look for:

- **Check the Harness:** Look for a five-point harness with a chest clip.
- **Find the Safety Label:** U.S. car seats must have a label stating compliance with FMVSS 213.
- **Look for Instructions:** Verify the seat includes an instruction manual and registration information.
- **Check the Manufacturer:** Watch for missing brand information, unusual labels, or spelling errors.
- **Shop Smart:** Purchase from trusted retailers and verify questionable seats with the manufacturer.

Remember: If you're unsure whether a car seat is legitimate, don't use it until you've verified its safety!

3 Steps to Buying a Safe Car Seat

Buying a car seat? Make sure you're getting a legitimate, safe product with these simple steps:

- **Research Before Buying:** Use the NHTSA Car Seat Finder to explore car seats appropriate for your child's age and size.
- **Shop Trusted Retailers:** Buy directly from manufacturers or authorized retailers. Be cautious of third-party online sellers.
- **Check the Details:** Verify manufacturer labels, instructions, and registration information before using the seat.

Remember: A great deal isn't worth compromising your child's safety!



SAFE KIDS GRAND FORKS

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Altru Health System is proud to serve as the lead agency for Safe Kids Grand Forks. For more information on this and other childhood injury prevention topics, visit safekidsgf.com, call us at 701.780.1489 or email safekid@altru.org.

KEEPING KIDS SAFE AT HOME, AT SCHOOL, AT PLAY, AND ON THE WAY!!!

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Cord Safety: Small Hazards, Big Risks!

Damaged electrical cords and dangling window blind cords can pose serious safety risks. Keep your home safer with these tips:

- **Check for Damage:** Replace cords that are frayed, cracked, or have exposed wires.
- **Pull the Plug:** Always unplug devices by gripping the plug, not the cord.
- **Avoid Pinching:** Keep electrical cords from being crushed by furniture.
- **Keep Cords Out of Reach:** Secure window blind cords away from young children.
- **Choose Cordless:** Replace older window coverings with cordless options whenever possible.

Remember: A quick cord check can help prevent fires, shocks, and strangulation injuries!

E-Scooter Safety: Be Seen After Dark!

Short winter days and freezing temperatures create extra risks for e-scooter riders. Stay safe with these tips:

- **Slow Down:** Ride at a speed that allows you to spot hazards and stop safely.
- **Be Visible:** Wear bright, reflective clothing and use front and rear lights.
- **Check Your Battery:** Cold temperatures can drain batteries faster, affecting your lights and ride.
- **Avoid Icy Conditions:** Snow and ice make it harder to steer and stop safely.

Remember: See and be seen, and skip the ride when conditions are unsafe!

Winter Ice: Don't Trust What You See!

Even in the middle of winter, sunshine and warmer temperatures can weaken ice, making frozen ponds and lakes dangerous. Stay safe with these tips:

- **Looks Can Be Deceiving:** Ice may look solid but still be too thin to support your weight.
- **Watch the Weather**: Warm temperatures, sunshine, and moving water can weaken ice.
- **Choose Safer Places:** Enjoy winter fun at designated sledding hills and maintained skating rinks.

Remember: When in doubt, stay off the ice!

Space Heater Safety: Stay Warm, Stay Safe!

Space heaters can keep you cozy, but improper use can lead to fires. Follow these simple safety tips:

- **Keep 3 Feet Clear:** Keep heaters away from blankets, curtains, furniture, and anything that can burn.
- **Plug Directly into the Wall:** Never use extension cords or power strips.
- **Turn It Off:** Always shut off and unplug heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.
- **Check Your Alarms:** Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly.

Remember: Stay warm without putting your home at risk!

Resources: safekidsgf.com | nhtsa.gov | buckleup.mn.org | safekids.org | weather.gov | nfpa.org

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