



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR CHILD SAFETY TRAINING GUIDELINES

The IAFCS has developed the following MINIMUM training guidelines to assist trainers and trainees in accomplishing the basic training goals necessary for new child safety professionals entering this field. Upon completion of training, the trainee should have basic technical skills and knowledge of the correct use and installation of child safety products as specified in these guidelines.

PRODUCT/HAZARD TRAINING - A minimum of 1-2 days (at least 8 hours). Products and hazards education should also be covered in the field training.

Training must include an overview of the following categories of injury and should include education about identification of hazards, as well as products that help prevent injuries. The IAFCS Home Hazards Test curriculum may be used as a reference.

1. Falls
 2. Burns
 3. Poisoning
 4. Drowning
 5. Airway Obstructions: Choking, suffocation, strangulation and entrapment
 6. Tip-overs
- Trainers should remember that while they may have their favorite products, trainees need to see samples of various products/brands that are available and learn why one might prefer one product/brand over another (features, durability, etc.).
 - Samples of a wide variety of types of products (latches, gates, restraints, door locks, etc.) should be available for review and demonstration.
 - Trainees must understand that it is important to follow the guidelines set by all product manufacturers.
 - Child safety products are designed as deterrents and are not a substitute for adult supervision.

FAMILY SAFETY – Trainer will discuss fire safety, fire ladders and the proper use of fire/smoke detectors and CO detectors.

GATES - Review the four different types of safety gates and their proper placement, use and installation.

1. Pressure mounted gates
2. Pressure mounted walk-through gates
3. Hardware-mounted gates
4. Sectional gates

GATE MOUNTS – Review of different types of gate mounting systems and their proper installation.

BALCONY/DECK SAFETY – Trainer will discuss proper spacing of balustrades for decks and balconies. Discussion will include review of the type of products available to remedy deficiencies and their proper attachment.

LATCHES - Introduce the trainee to the five types of cabinets

1. Overlay cabinets
2. Partial Overlay cabinets
3. Inset cabinets
4. Partial Inset cabinets
5. European cabinets

Trainer will review the types of latches and locks available for each including their proper installation and the advantages or disadvantages of each type of latch/lock.

WINDOW SAFETY - Review the three different window types

1. Double hung windows
2. Sliding windows
3. Casement windows

Trainer should discuss maximum safe window openings and what can be done to limit risks. Window guard product types and their proper use/installation will be covered, including emergency fire exits. Trainer will discuss blind safety, recommend cordless blind products as the safest option and show product options to secure window blind cords so a trainee understand options available to a client until they can replace products with cords.

DOOR SAFETY – Review of the different types of door latches and locks, including their proper installation. Review options for both interior and exterior doors, taking into consideration an emergency fire exit. In addition, trainer should review finger pinch guard products.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY – Trainer will show examples of different types of electrical safety devices (outlet plugs, sliding safety outlet plates, outlet boxes and power strip covers). The appropriate use of each and their proper installation will be addressed.

FURNITURE & TV SAFETY – Trainer will include training about furniture and TV hazards (hope chests, sharp edges/parts and more). Training will include the danger of furniture/TV tip-overs and what can be done to prevent this risk. Review of different furniture anchoring systems, their proper installation and when they are appropriate. Cushioning products for furniture will be reviewed.

FIREPLACE & HEARTH SAFETY – Trainer will review products available to prevent fall injuries and burns, including gates and cushioning products.

BATHROOM SAFETY – Review various products such as toilet locks, spout covers, tub sidewall protectors, etc. and the benefits of each product in preventing injury.

TOOLS & FASTENERS – Trainer will review the different wall structures and fasteners and the importance of securing gates and furniture to solid surfaces. The following surfaces need to be addressed and the proper method for anchoring to these various surfaces. Basics on stud finders and toggle bolts will be included.

1. Hollow Wall
2. Masonry
3. Wood
4. Wood and Metal Studs

FIELD TRAINING – After completion of the Product/Hazard Training, a minimum of 2-3 days (12-16 hours total) should be spent in the field observing proper installation techniques and handling home safety assessments. It is not expected that a trainee will see all type of items installed, but field training should give them a foundation to build on. Trainees will get real-world experience with families to learn how to assess and minimize risks. Also, trainees will receive hands-on experience with the proper use of tools and fasteners which was introduced in the Product/Hazard Training.

GENERAL BUSINESS TRAINING – A minimum of 4–6 hours will be spent discussing business practices, including business ethics and the importance of insurance. Trainer will include discussion of inventory management, disclaimers, bookkeeping, importance of following their state’s regulations regarding licensing and sales taxes, pricing structures (per item vs. products plus hourly rates), vendors and product ordering, marketing and advertising. Customer service basics should also be discussed including how to handle difficult situations, repairing damage and not using scare tactics with clients, etc. Trainers agree to instruct trainees on the following:

- The IAFCS will request the trainee to complete an evaluation form of their training when they apply for membership.
- These guidelines are for TRAINING programs. The training programs are NOT certification programs. Trainees are not permitted to state that they are “certified” after completing the training program.
- The programs that are listed on the Training Contact list are independent programs and ARE NOT IAFCS programs. Trainees are not permitted to state that they are trained by the IAFCS or received training by the IAFCS. Trainers and trainees are not permitted to state that an individual or a training program is approved by the IAFCS.