

# A Safety Charter for

Children and youth are the Nation's most valuable asset. They are wholesome and eager; they possess great vigor; they are adventurous. At the same time they are ingenious and mischievous. Most of all, they have faith and trust in adults whenever and wherever their safety is involved. This fact places a tremendous responsibility upon us all to provide:

**I. "For every child a dwelling-place safe, - - -,"\***

A Home that assures freedom to live, work and play safely; an environment with progressively reduced physical hazards; and a family program of continuous guidance that develops confidence and ability to protect one's self and others.

**All children and youth need:**

1. A home built, equipped, and maintained for safe living.
2. A home where there is an atmosphere of acceptance of each individual—where sympathy, understanding, love, and affection promote the mental and emotional health essential to the development of desirable attitudes and practices of safe living.
3. A home where parents and children alike assume their individual responsibilities for safe behavior in all situations.
4. A home where the family practices safe living at all times.

\*"Children's Charter," White House Conference on Child Health and Protection, 1930.

**II. "For every child education for safety and protection against accidents to which modern conditions subject him - - -,"\***

A School that recognizes ever-changing needs; progressively reduces physical hazards; and educates for safe living through instruction, example, and participation.

**All children and youth need:**

1. A school that provides and maintains a safe environment — buildings, grounds, equipment, supplies, machinery, heating, and lighting.
2. A school that bases its education for safe living on continuous research, local and national.
3. A school that uses a 24-hour a day accident reporting system as one factor in planning and evaluating its instruction in safe living.
4. A school where guidance, supervision, and instruction are geared to personal responsibility for one's safety and that of others, and where due emphasis is given to proper knowledge, skills, attitudes, and habits.
5. A school that provides, in all its activities, opportunities for pupils to develop the ability to

The Safety Charter for Children and Youth was developed by a joint committee representing the organizations listed below. These organizations have approved the Charter. Any other organization or group of people wishing to approve or adopt it may do so.

The organizations are: American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation; Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development; Department of Classroom Teachers; Department of Elementary School Principals; National Association of Secondary School Principals; National Commission on Safety Education; National Council for the Social Studies (all of which are departments of the National Education Association); The Society of State Directors for Health, Physical Education and Recreation; National Safety Council.

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make adjustments for safe living, both present and future.

6. A school that permits democratic participation of children and adults in planning and enforcing rules and regulations designed for safe living.

7. A school that reflects a philosophy which emphasizes educational experiences for youthful participants and which substitutes an increasing sense of personal responsibility for restrictive and supervisory measures imposed by others.

8. A school that facilitates interaction with the community for better safety.

**III. "For every child a community which recognizes and plans for his needs, protects him against physical dangers, —, provides him with safe and wholesome places for play and recreation - - -."**

A Community where all agencies and organizations, through individual and cooperative effort,

develop a program of action that meets conditions affecting the safety of youth.

#### **All children and youth need:**

1. A community that provides for the safety of its citizens.

2. A community, rural or urban, that provides for and encourages safe living on the streets and highways, on the job, in recreation, and at home.

3. A community that considers the safe route to and from school, church, playground, and other youth centers in its planning.

4. A community with adequate regulations and enforcement for traffic, transportation, building and fire safety.

5. A community that accepts its responsibility for appropriate leadership and supervision of group functions.

6. A community wherein safe and reasonable recreation programs are provided for children and youth, under adult guidance and supervision competent to assist children and youth in making appropriate social adjustments.



***We, as educational leaders, recognizing that conservation of life depends upon safety education of our children and recognizing that every individual has the right to contribute to safe living for all Americans, do hereby pledge ourselves to do all that is within our power to meet these needs of children and youth.***

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