



SAFETY ALERT

***Slip/trip/fall risks abound in Early Childhood settings.
Make sure you don't become a victim of them!***

Several Conference Early Childhood employees were injured over the past few months from trips, slips, and falls.

To minimize your risk of injury:

- Keep clear pathways through early childhood rooms, free from toys. One teacher tripped and fell over a toy on the floor.
 - Encourage children to help keep floors tidy.
 - Make sure all rugs are secured to prevent tripping.
 - Organize storage areas to remove clutter; consider wall-mounted storage hooks, shelves, etc.
- Be cautious using "walking ropes", sometimes called "critter ropes"; if allowed to sag they can become trip hazards. One toddler teacher was injured after tripping over the rope.
 - Select toddler ropes with handles like the one pictured at right so that each child holds a handle, preventing the rope from sagging.
 - Use the correct length rope for the number of children. They come in various sizes (for 6 children plus teacher, for 12 children plus teacher, etc.).
- Make sure you wear supportive shoes at all times, the more slip-resistant, the better. One day care teacher was injured after rolling her ankle and falling while escorting a child to his/her parent who was waiting outside. The path took her up a grassy hill.
 - Day care teachers and others spend a lot of time on their feet, and often have "messes" to clean up. Many nurses (who spend time on their feet) prefer brands like "Dansko". There are many styles from which to choose, some of which can be cleaned and disinfected due to their material.



Please share this with employees; this alert and all safety talks and alerts are found at www.susumc.org/workplace-safety/