

Applying key approaches will save children's lives

There is no single blueprint for success, but a number of basic principles underlie most of the successful child injury prevention programmes around the world, these are:

- Legislation, regulation and enforcement
- Product modification
- Environmental modification
- Education, skills development and advocacy
- Emergency care and rehabilitation

In countries where the greatest reductions have been recorded, a combination of these approaches has been employed. In addition, countries that encourage a culture of safety and display strong political commitment have made great progress in reducing their child injury burden.

Key approaches to addressing child injuries

Key approaches	Traffic	Drowning	Burns	Falls	Poisoning
Legislation, regulations and enforcement	Speed limits; comprehensive drink-driving laws; child restraints	Four-sided pool fencing	Hot water tap temperature legislation; smoke alarms	Playground equipment standards	Manufacture, storage and distribution of harmful substances requiring safe packaging
Product modification	Vehicle-front modification; child restraint systems	Personal flotation devices	Non-tip lanterns and candle holders	Baby walker modification; safety glass	Medication packaging; child resistant closures
Environmental modification	Child friendly infrastructure; safer routes to school; safer play spaces	Barriers – such as well coverings and fencing	Separation of cooking area from living area	Window guards on tall buildings; roof railings; non-climbable banisters	Safe storage of potentially harmful substances
Education and skills development	Helmet wearing; using child restraints	Swimming training and supervision	First aid – “cool the burn”	Supportive home visitation to identify fall hazards	Immediate first aid
Emergency medical care	Child-sized equipment; child-friendly environment	Immediate resuscitation	Burns centres	Appropriate paediatric acute care	Poison control centres