

## LAUNCH OF THE FIRST EVER COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY MANUAL FOR SAFE SCHOOLS BY EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION- INDIA.

According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, safety is the second most important need of every human being after food and water. Brain research has proven that children thrive best in environments that are brain friendly and not brain antagonistic. Because the early years are the brain development years, it is important that children feel safe and secure in the early childhood centers so as to nurture their brain development to its fullest.

The Early Childhood Association believes that the two important reasons for focusing on all round safety for young children are-

1. When children are safe and secure their all round development is boosted. When children are unsafe or insecure then their emotional development is negatively impacted which will in turn have a negative impact on brain development.
2. Young children do not have an understanding of safe, dangerous, unsafe etc. and so the adults who take care of them, teach them should take the ownership of their safety and security.

Because there are no guidelines, regulations, or checklists available for kindergartens (including anganwadis, balwadis, crèches) and daycares, the Early Childhood Association in collaboration with many NGOs, associations and agencies has compiled this comprehensive manual on safety in schools-

S.A.F.E SCHOOLS- SAFETY ALWAYS FOR EVERYONE

*Schools also need to be aware that safety is an integral right of every child and a punishable offence as per Central Government Act- Section 336 in The Indian Penal Code - Act endangering life or personal safety of others. —Whoever does any act so rashly or negligently as to endanger human life or the personal safety of others, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to two hundred and fifty rupees, or with both.*

This manual guides schools, crèches, daycares on all safety aspects and gives them in depth pointers on the how and why of ensuring safety at their premise. Many checklists have also been included so that the centers and center owners in charge can include a self-check of safety parameters.

The safety manual is divided into broad areas of school and classroom safety, body safety, emotional safety, fire safety, health and disease safety, monsoon safety, bus safety, accidents and emergencies and other unforeseen safety details. There are links given to videos that the early childhood centers can refer to and posters that they can display to educate children, staff, and parents, available for free download from [www.eca-india.org](http://www.eca-india.org)

The Early Childhood Association would like safety to become an integral part of the investment and planning of all early childhood centers and it has sent a copy of this manual to all the State Women and Child Development Ministries and Police Commissioners. Children are our future. Let's keep our future safe and secure. Let us invest in their safety.

Swati Popat Vats.

President

EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION-09819121384

S.A.F.E SCHOOLS  
SAFETY ALWAYS FOR EVERYONE.

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