



Parenting Clips

Kohl's A Minute for Kids Parenting Clips offers practical information on common child health and safety issues from the experts at Dayton Children's.

As the region's pediatric referral center, Dayton Children's is the only hospital in the region with a full-time commitment to the health care needs of infants, children and teens. Our pediatric expertise is also offered at locations in Springboro, Middletown, Springfield, Troy, Lima and Vandalia.

Call 937-641-3666 or visit our website at www.childrensdayton.org for more information.

Experts you trust, caring for the children you love.

Six ways to keep children safe around dogs

Dayton Children's treats about 240 children a year—or about 20 children a month—for dog bites.

Two-year-old Pierson Ward of Springfield was climbing into the family car when a neighbor's dog attacked him. Pierson suffered numerous bites to his face, ribs, spine and head. He was treated in Dayton Children's Regional Pediatric Trauma and Emergency Center and underwent four hours of general and plastic surgery.

Unfortunately, Pierson's story is not unusual.

"Most young children are about the same size as dogs and the dogs may see these children as a threat," says Thomas Krzmarzick, MD, medical director of Dayton Children's Regional Pediatric Trauma and Emergency Center.

"It's critical that parents teach their children how to interact with dogs to prevent injuries," he says. "Just because a dog has never bitten, does not mean that it won't get scared and bite in defense. Eighty-five percent of dogs who bite have never bitten before."

Six ways to protect your child

Teach children:

1. Always ask a dog's owner if you may pet the dog. There may be a good reason why a dog should not be touched.
2. Approach a dog from the front or side. Hold your hands low and allow the dog to smell you before you pet it. Speak softly. If you surprise a dog from behind or wave your hands in the air or yell, you could scare the dog and cause him to try to bite you.
3. Let a dog eat and sleep in peace. A dog that is eating may think you are going to take his food if you come too close. If a dog is sleeping, you might scare him if you come too close and wake him up.
4. Watch out for special toys. Some dogs have strong feelings for their balls and chew toys - just like you do with your favorite toys! You wouldn't want someone to grab your favorite toy away from you, so don't take a bone or toy from a dog's mouth.

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To receive more health and safety tips from the experts at Dayton Children's, join our online community today. Go to www.childrensdayton.org, click on E-newsletter on the left.



Kohl's A Minute for Kids Parenting Clips are published monthly by Dayton Children's for parents and families in the region. For more information or to be removed from our mailing list, call 937-641-3620.

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5. Respect a dog's space. Dogs naturally protect their territories. Sticking your hand inside a strange dog's pen, through a fence or in a car window where a dog is sitting may cause him to bite.
6. Do not run from a dog. The dog's natural instinct is to chase and catch you. Stay still when approached by an unfamiliar dog. If knocked over by a dog, roll into a ball and lie still.

Dr. Krzmarzick recommends that parents carefully consider their decision if adding a dog to the family when children are young. If families want dogs, he says, it's important to research appropriate dog breeds that are good with young children.

Pierson Ward was lucky. Today Pierson is back to his normal self—he plays outside and enjoys being a 2-year-old. Ashley, however, doesn't let Pierson go out into the yard alone.

"I've learned that you can't be too careful with anybody's dog," she says.

For information on how read a dog's body language, nine tips for choosing a dog and health and safety tips from the experts at Dayton Children's, visit our website at kohlsminutes.childrensdayton.org. You will find podcasts and other health and safety information.

ABOUT OUR EXPERT



Thomas Krzmarzick, MD, is medical director of the Regional Pediatric Trauma and Emergency Center. Dr. Krzmarzick is also a clinical assistant professor of

pediatrics and emergency medicine at Wright State University's Boonshoft School of Medicine. He is board certified in pediatrics and pediatric emergency medicine. He earned his medical degree at the University of Iowa School of Medicine. Dr. Krzmarzick completed his pediatric residency at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, where he was also chief resident in pediatrics. Dr. Krzmarzick has been the medical director of the emergency department at Dayton Children's since 1999.

Other resources

- ▶ American Veterinary Medical Association - www.avma.org/educators/default.asp#npw
- ▶ American Kennel Club - www.akc.org
- ▶ The Humane Society of the United States - www.hsus.org

PEDIATRIC EXPERTS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Dayton Children's

- 1 937-641-3000 One Children's Plaza
Dayton, Ohio 45404-1815

Urgent Care Centers

- 2 **Dayton** — Dayton Children's Campus.
937-641-5995
Conveniently located just off Route 4 on Valley St.
Hours: Mon-Fri 5:00 to 10:00 pm
Sat-Sun Noon to 8:00 pm

- 3 **Outpatient Care Center — Springboro**
937-641-5725
3333 West Tech Road
Conveniently located just off Route 741
Urgent Care Hours:
Mon-Fri 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm
Sat-Sun 11:00 am to 8:00 pm
Lab/Imaging Hours:
Mon-Fri 8:30 am to 9:00 pm
Sat 8:30 am to 7:00 pm
Sun 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

Rehabilitative/audiology services, lab and medical imaging (x-ray, fluoro, etc.) available at this location

Outpatient Testing Center's

- Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 am to 5:30 pm
Sat 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Lab and medical imaging (x-ray, etc.) with physician referral
- 4 **Beavercreek** — The Midtown Shoppes of Beavercreek 937-641-5770
3224 Dayton-Xenia Road, Suite 100
- 5 **Kettering** — Lamplighter Square
937-435-6063 5583 Far Hills Avenue
- 6 **Vandalia** — Off Northwoods Boulevard
937-641-5765 810 Falls Creek Drive

Specialty Centers

- 7 **Lima - St. Rita's Med Care Clinic** —
939 West Market Street 937-641-3000
Hours: Vary by clinic
Specialty clinic visits with physician referral. Ask operator for specific clinic.
- 8 **Specialty Care Center — Warren County 100**
Campus Loop Rd. Suite A
Conveniently located near the new Atrium Medical Center, on the Premier Health Campus — Middletown.
513-424-2850
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 am to 5:30 pm
Sat 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Specialty clinic visits, lab and medical imaging (x-ray, etc.) with physician referral

