Fall Prevention – Classroom Tips

Safety is everyone’s responsibility, and it starts with you. In order to keep students, coworkers and visitors safe, it is important to recognize hazards and correct them before an incident occurs. If you see an unsafe condition, take the initiative to correct the situation before someone gets hurt. You can’t assume that someone else will take care of it.

Slips, trips and falls cause thousands of accidents and serious injuries each year. Wet surfaces, debris or other objects on the floor create a slip, trip and fall hazard. It only takes a quarter of an inch change in elevation to create a trip hazard.

Common indoor slip, trip and fall hazards include:
- Debris, scrap paper, pencils, crayons and other small objects on the floor.
- Electrical cords running across the floor.
- Crates, boxes or other items stored on the floor.
- Spills and leaks creating a wet surface.
- Congested storage and desk arrangements that do not allow easy movement throughout the classroom.
- Rugs, carpets and mats that have:
  - curled edges, holes or tears.
  - positioned against a surface that causes the edge to be raised (i.e. up against a desk leg/wall).
  - buckling and/or flipped edges because it was moved or kicked.
- Children’s personal items (i.e. jackets, boots, etc) stored on the floor.
- Open drawers, locker and cabinet doors.
- Items hanging out of lockers (i.e. back pack straps, jackets, etc.).

Solutions:
- If you see something on the floor, pick it up.
- Regularly remind students to pick up objects that they see on the floor.
- Do not store items on the floor.
- If you see a spill, have it cleaned up promptly. If it is a leak that needs repair, notify the front office.
- If your classroom is congested with storage, furniture and/or other objects, try to remove items from the classroom to create more space.
- Notify the front office if there are holes or tears in carpet, or if rugs are badly worn and buckling.
- If rugs, carpets or mats have curling edges, edges should be cut off or it should be replaced.
- If you see the edge of a carpet or rug ruffled or flipped over, correct it.
- Avoid storing children’s personal items on the floor. If this cannot be avoided, try to keep these areas organized and away from areas where people frequently walk.
- Remember and remind students to close drawers, cabinets and lockers.
- Remind students to make sure all items are in lockers and not hanging out.