

L'Hôpital de Montréal pour Enfants The Montreal Children's Hospital

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PRESS RELEASE

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The Montreal Children's Hospital issues a warning concerning trampolines and mini-trampolines

Montreal, April 23, 1997: The Montreal Children's Hospital issues a warning concerning the use of trampolines and mini trampolines in gym class and for recreational activities. In the past five years The Montreal Children's Hospital has seen a net increase in the number of injuries related to the use of trampolines and mini-trampolines. This increase is especially prevalent in schools where trampoline accidents represented 66.3% of all accidents in this five year period. "We are extremely concerned with the potential seriousness of the injuries", explained Debbie Friedman, assistant Director Head and Spinal Cord trauma program. Many of the reported serious injuries that have occurred have been in trained gymnasts with spotters present. " We strongly recommend that schools, colleges, municipalities, and families not purchase them" continued Ms. Friedman.

Mini-trampolines and full-sized trampolines have caused so many serious head and neck injuries that both the Canadian Paediatric Society and the American Academy of Paediatric have cautioned against their use in schools, colleges and playgrounds. Head and spinal cord injuries can lead to significant long term permanent consequences and in some cases are life threatening. Head injuries are one of the leading causes of death and disability in pediatric and adolescent population.

Since 1904 the mission of the Montreal Children's Hospital is to be a leader in the care and treatment of sick infants, children, and adolescents and to be an advocate for the prevention of injuries so that all children may reach their full potential.

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