

# Window Falls

A Message from Mary Bridge  
Center for Childhood Safety



Screens keep  
bugs out,  
not kids in!

- You CAN prevent window falls
- For *any* window that poses a fall risk:
  - Limit openings to **4 inches or less**, by adding a **window stop** device
  - If a window must be open more than 4 inches – use an operable **window guard** instead
  - Choose window stops / guards that can be removed by an adult in an emergency
- Keep furniture (and other objects) away from windows to discourage little climbers
- Teach children not to play near windows, but do not rely on them to remember that

Mary Bridge   
Children's  
Hospital · Clinics · Foundation

← 4 Inches →

# Mary Bridge Center for Childhood Safety

## **FACTS:**

- Falls are the #1 cause of injury hospitalization for children in the US
- Pierce County has the highest number of window falls in Washington State
- Children are curious by nature, top heavy by design, and can fall through a window opened more than 4 inches

## **RISK FACTORS FOR WINDOW FALLS:**

- Boys
- Under the age of 7
- Playing unsupervised
- Caregivers are often present, but distracted at the time of the fall
- Window screens are often present, but do NOT prevent window falls

## **SAFETY TIPS:**

- Window safety products are different from crime prevention devices
- Do not let children watch you operate any window safety product
- Plant shrubbery beneath windows to soften the impact of a fall
- Ask about window safety practices before your child visits another home

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:**

[multicare.org/childsafety](http://multicare.org/childsafety)

[stopat4.com](http://stopat4.com)

