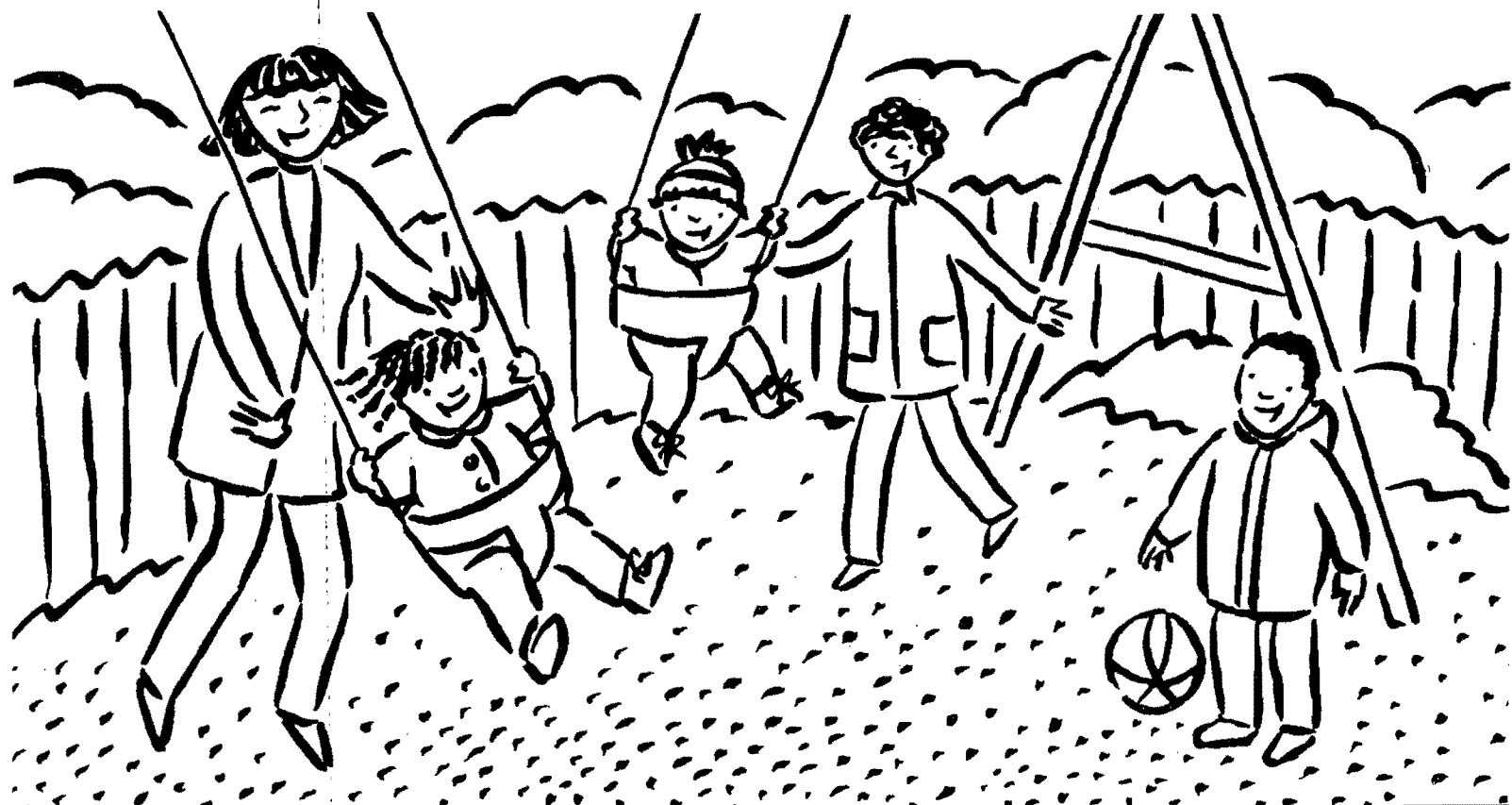

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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Child Care Safety Checklist

FOR PARENTS & CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

April 9 1999 conf fall

I Add Speech Content

- content
- press hits

501-1104
catalan

II Add - get names #parent?

III web

pgm

Tar

This is a kind of crib we could have
turn blankets / sleep position

talk to Gary

Upstairs

for director Pam Simon

Chairman
the USFSC

Ann Brown → left

Carol Black - bio to Kathleen

- committed to
getting heard

plsd FL is going to talk @
aggressive campaign that we're
launching to make the
one empowered

#parent - 2 min

FL → checklist, + lesson specifics

- thank comm'n for releasing info in 60

mother's day
all USA crisis have
empowered the center
to get immediate
response

- empowering parents by our guest looking for the right way
- outreach: by not ays

- safety in 60
- compliance w/
safety checklist +
will dist info
to parents

CLC: 7 in room
GSA: 5

4 chfs
podium
children sitting on floor

between 301-504-0822

Bolton: No link

Schneider
Cynthia Schneider - 202-592-2527
H: 301-588-7869

4/9/99 - Cont cont

Lam arrival

held

staffing

PHB 202-219-3200

F: 202-7496

Greeters: • Ann Brown

• David Barron

Pam Simon

Carole Black

Cynthia Schneider (not tur)

• AG

- DAG

- Sen Dodd

1105-1115

5 minute tour - 10 min
3 items

I Crib - cot can
[infant room]

II 4 yr olds

Vertical blinds

III 2 yr old
Children's coats

1120-1150

Move upstairs 4's room

- pyrm - 1/2

podium for charts
charts

Assembly present feedback
at end

Black escort to motorcade

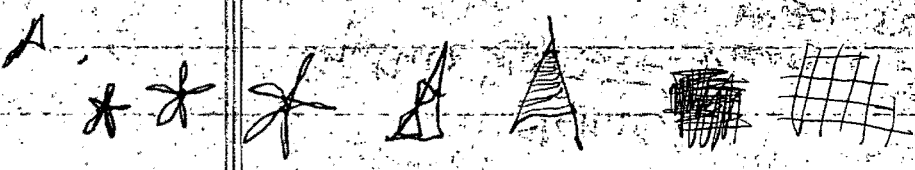
1155 depart

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4/8

just US
was

701. justice and

Monday 4/12 event

conf call w/ GSA + CPSC

jud composition

parents fr. ctr, + GSA + CPSC

material?

George
Guelton
778

0740 lifetime (B)

parent to introduce her - for name

list

video nurse

press. 201 person

needs

mult

light

staying

ref. exp

amp

gesting

ref. structure

GSA

Radium

eric dadds, susan chumpet

501-1104

11 am/12
call time 10 105 1030

approximate w/ vs
1000

lg size classroom

- Staying? not necessarily - in car
- diversity
- # parents - whatever dys. they have

April 9, 1999

PROMOTING GREATER INVESTMENT IN CHILD CARE

Date: Monday, April 12
Time: 11:00 am - 11:55 am
Location: Just Us Kids Child Care Center
Washington, D.C.
From: Nicole Rabner and
Ruby Shamir

I. PURPOSE

To promote greater investment in child care and make two announcements: (1) the release of a new study by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) on ways to identify and correct hidden hazards that may exist in child care; and (2) the launch the new outreach efforts of Lifetime Television's child care awareness campaign "Caring for Kids."

II. BACKGROUND

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In the context of promoting the Administration's Child Care Initiative, this event is designed to spotlight the need to empower parents with vital information and support to make the child care choices that are right for them. The CPSC report will empower parents and caregivers with critical information on child care safety and the Lifetime effort will help empower parents by making sure their voices and struggles are heard. The event will include a brief tour of the Just Us Kids Child Development Center on which you will learn about some of the hidden hazards highlighted in the CPSC study, and a speaking program.

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To provide parents with the means to be aware of and correct these hazards, the CPSC developed a new Child Care Safety Checklist for parents and caregivers to monitor the safety of their care settings. The CPSC's recommendations include making sure that safety gates are used to keep children away from potentially dangerous areas, especially stairs, and abandoning the use of children's clothing with drawstrings around the hood and neck.

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III. PARTICIPANTS

Speaking Program

- Attorney General Janet Reno
- Senator Christopher Dodd
- Ann Brown, Chairman, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Carole Black, CEO, Lifetime Television
- Cynthia Schnedar, Just Us Kids parent
- The First Lady

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V. PRESS PLAN

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VI. REMARKS

- Talking Points Attached.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- Audience List

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- CPSC Report
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**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TALKING POINTS FOR CHILD CARE EVENT
"JUST US KIDS" CHILD CARE CENTER**

April 12, 1999

- **Acknowledgments:** Senator Chris Dodd; Janet Reno, Attorney General; Ann Brown, Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission; Dave Barrum, Administrator of the General Services Administration; Carole Black, President and CEO of Lifetime Television; Pam Simon, Director of "Just Us Kids," a federally-sponsored child care facility; and Cynthia Schneider, parent.
- I am delighted to join all the parents and experts here today to talk about a critically important issue -- how to empower parents and child care providers to provide the very best care for our children. We know that millions of Americans, struggling to be both good parents and good workers, rely on child care and after-school programs for part of each day. And we know that we all have a stake in making sure that no parent has to choose between the job they need and the children they love. But unfortunately not all parents have child care choices like this wonderful center.
- And so we are here to highlight two important new efforts designed to empower parents to make the child care choices that are right for them and their families.

(1) **New Study on Child Care Safety.** I'm pleased that the Consumer Product Safety Commission is today releasing new vital information for parents and child care providers designed to keep our children safe, prevent injuries and even save lives. As many of us who have "child-proofed" a home know, there are details that even the most thorough person may overlook that could place children at risk of harm. On the basis of a random study of child care facilities around the country, the Commission has produced a simple Child Care Safety Checklist for parents and caregivers to identify and correct "hidden hazards" in child care facilities -- and in the home.

Parents and child care providers want to do the very best for children and we hope that this important new information will empower them to do just that. Parents and caregivers can play a critical role in making sure child care settings are safe by asking the right questions and looking for specific hazards. For instance, by making sure that window blinds do not have looped cords, we can prevent children from strangulation. By making sure that playground surfacing is safe -- with wood chips, sand, mulch, or other surface covering -- we can protect against injuries from falls, especially head injuries. And, by making sure that no soft bedding exists where babies sleep, we can prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and suffocation.

For 25 years, America's families have benefitted from the Consumer Product Safety Commission's dedication to preventing injuries and saving lives. I'm very pleased that the Commission will be mounting an aggressive campaign to get this checklist into the hands of all caregivers so that they can ensure that their facilities are checked for any possible hidden safety hazard. There will be other partners, as well. For instance, the General Services Administration will be joining this effort by ensuring that the federally-sponsored child care facilities in their supervision will have these materials right away. Also, I am pleased to announce that by this Mother's Day, GSA will connect all of its child care facilities to the Internet so that caregivers can receive up-to-the-minute safety notices and communicate with parents.

(2) New Efforts From Lifetime Television. Another important way to empower parents is to ensure that their voices are heard. Too often, discussions about child care challenges take place around the water cooler or the kitchen table -- and aren't heard by the policy-makers who can help them. I'm so grateful that Lifetime Television is bringing its unique powers of amplification to this important issue -- to ensure that parents know that they are not alone in their child care struggles and to encourage them to speak up and speak out. Lifetime will be hosting a series of events around the country which will engage parents in this important discussion. And I'm pleased to announce that the General Services Administration will be partnering with Lifetime and use its child care settings around the country as venues for dialogues on parents' child care struggles.

Greater Federal Investment in Child Care is Needed. But the President and I believe that more must be done at the federal level to make child care better, safer and more affordable for America's working families. That is why the President has included in his budget request significant new investments in child care -- to help working families pay for child care, build a good supply of after-school programs, improve the safety and quality of care, and promote early learning.

Central to the President's plan is to provide more help to low-income working families paying for child care. Today, these families spend up to 25 percent of their incomes on child care, and assistance is scarce. According to the most recent figures, ten million families are eligible for federal subsidies, yet only 1.25 million received support in 1997.

So, I am pleased that the Senate -- under the leadership of Senators Dodd and Jeffords and with strong bipartisan support -- recently approved significant new funding for child care subsidies to help low-income families pay for child care. I hope Congress takes this critical step to give America's working families the child care support they need to thrive.

Parents Voices Must Be Heard. It is critical that as our nation's leaders discuss these issues, they listen to the voices and the struggles of parents. When they do, we will ensure that families have access to safe, affordable child care. Let us work together to make this year that we address the pressing child care needs of America's working families.

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**Child Care Event
April 12, 1999
Just Us Kids**

Audience List

Parents and Children

Nicole Humphries, parent
Sherman Bennett, child
Randall Eliason, parent
Sonja Eliason, child
Ellen Durkee, parent
Lily Durkee, child
Stuart Ishimaru, parent
Matthew Ishimaru, child
Evelyn Ying, parent
Henry Lewis, child
Jennifer Rivera, parent
Aislyn Rivera, child
Barbara Jacobs, parent
Laura Jacobs, child
Felicia Johnson, parent
Simmie Talley, child
Marie Hagen, parent
Christian Willey, child

GSA

David Barram, Administrator
Eric Dodds, White House Liaison
Cheryl De Atley, GSA Office of Child Care
Ann Everett, Deputy Regional Administrator
Joy Guenther, Regional Child Care Coordinator
Robert Peck, Commissioner Public Buildings Service

CPSC

Kathleen Begala
Barbara Rosenfeld
Jacqueline Elder
Carol Cave
Nancy Sachs
Debra Sweet

Lifetime Television

Jane Tollinger, Executive VP of Lifetime Television
Meredith Wagner

Andrea Camp
Joanne Howes

Other Audience Members

Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder

Emil Parker, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, HHS

Pam Simon, Director of Just Us Kids



our *Lifetime* commitment

**LIFETIME TELEVISION DECLARES APRIL NATIONAL CHILDCARE MONTH AS
PART OF CARING FOR KIDS: OUR LIFETIME COMMITMENT PUBLIC
AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

**First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Lauds LIFETIME's
Initiative for Putting Faces on National Statistics**

- Parking lot attendants earn an average \$6.38 an hour while childcare workers earn an average \$6.12 an hour. We as a nation pay people more to watch our cars than to watch our kids....
- In a poll of the nation's police chiefs, nine out of ten chiefs agreed that "America could sharply reduce crime if government invested more in programs to help children and youth get a good start...."
- Economists estimate that the cost, including crime and welfare costs, of allowing low-income children to go without at least two years of quality early childhood care and education is approximately \$100,000 per child, totaling roughly \$400 billion for all poor children now under the age of five....

NEW YORK, March 11, 1999 -- LIFETIME Television, in collaboration with over 100 non-profit women's and children's advocacy organizations, has declared April National Childcare Month to help bring attention to the need for quality, affordable childcare in this country. With this declaration, LIFETIME continues to expand its award-winning *Caring for Kids: Our Lifetime Commitment* campaign, which serves as a voice for viewers' concerns about childcare and urges national policymakers to take action.

National Childcare Month on LIFETIME features original programming throughout April, including "**Confronting the Crisis: Childcare in America**," a one-hour documentary by Academy Award-winning actress and director Lee Grant, hosted by actress and mother Kyra Sedgwick, airing **Tuesday, April 20 from 10-11PM ET/PT**, a week of childcare segments on the Network's magazine series "New Attitudes" beginning **Monday, April 19 at 11PM ET/PT** and public service announcements.

LIFETIME kicked off *Caring for Kids: Our Lifetime Commitment* in March, 1998, when the Network partnered with leading women's and children's organizations representing more than six million women (including Families and Work Institute, the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families and the National Council of Women's Organizations, which encompasses organizations including NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Child Care Action Campaign and the YWCA of the U.S.A.) and the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to draw attention to the childcare crisis in this country.

(More)

2-2-2-2

LIFETIME/*Caring for Kids*: National Childcare Month

Throughout the year, via a toll-free number (1-800-522-0925) and Lifetime Online (www.lifetime.com), LIFETIME gathered thousands of childcare stories from women and families across the country and presented them to all Members of Congress, the President and the First Lady, who read one of LIFETIME's stories in a Rose Garden Ceremony. The Network and its partners also served as the catalyst for one e-mail writer to testify before the Senate Banking Committee.

In February 1999, the First Lady read one of LIFETIME's stories in a discussion on childcare. Mrs. Clinton complimented LIFETIME's efforts "to bring to a broader audience the real true-life stories," noting "the impact that one single story ... can have" versus the confusing statistics and data that too often define the nation's struggles with childcare.

"Our campaign is pioneering in its effort to weave the outreach of national organizations with the capacities of cyberspace and television, so that women have the opportunity -- and the power -- to have their voices heard in a new way," said Meredith Wagner, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs for LIFETIME Television. "In a recent poll, 87 percent of Americans said it was difficult to find affordable, good quality childcare. The stories we've collected are the faces behind these numbers. LIFETIME's *Caring for Kids* campaign is about amplifying these voices so that women can lead the way and make the solutions happen. Childcare is a problem we can solve, but only if we speak up --- and work together."

"We applaud LIFETIME for its long-term commitment to women's issues and to the well-being of American families," said Faith Wohl, President of the Child Care Action Campaign.

"LIFETIME's *Caring for Kids* initiative is helping to amplify the voices of thousands of women who are struggling to find safe, affordable, good-quality care for their children. LIFETIME's efforts will go a long way to produce action on childcare that will benefit all families."

"I want to commend LIFETIME Television. This is a wonderful, creative way in which to engage the entire country...in legislation that is so important to their lives," said Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT).

"I want to thank LIFETIME for recognizing that childcare is a lifetime investment," said Representative Connie Morella (R-MD).

The Network's childcare awareness efforts are the latest in LIFETIME's rich history of national outreach on issues that matter most to women. Each October, LIFETIME conducts an annual breast cancer awareness campaign for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Last year, a record 1,400 cable affiliates participated in the program.

(More)

3-3-3-3

LIFETIME/*Caring for Kids*: National Childcare Month

LIFETIME Television is dedicated to providing contemporary and informative programming for women. LIFETIME is available on more than 11,000 cable systems and alternative delivery systems nationwide, serving over 73 million households. Learn more about LIFETIME Television on the Lifetime Online website at www.lifetime.com.

#

Contact:

Kate Goldberg, LIFETIME

212.424.7343

Winnie Atterbury, LIFETIME

212/424.7396

Andrea Camp

410/719.2309

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207



CPSC Chairman Ann Brown

ANN BROWN Biographical Sketch

Ann Brown was sworn in as Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) on March 10, 1994. She was nominated by President Clinton and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as a Commissioner and the seventh Chairman of the CPSC.

As Chairman, Mrs. Brown's goal has been to keep families -- and especially children -- safe. She has frequently cited the equal responsibility of consumers, industry and the CPSC in promoting consumer safety.

Chairman Brown believes that voluntary cooperation with industry is often the fastest and most effective means of addressing safety concerns. She underscored her belief in the importance of safety to industry by establishing the Chairman's Commendation to recognize outstanding contributions to safety; it has

been awarded to 17 recipients, including Procter & Gamble, Toys R Us, Hasbro's Playskool Division and the Whirlpool Corporation. In addition, she has sponsored three major conferences with industry: "Safety Sells," global harmonization of safety standards and working with small business.

Chairman Brown's actions on behalf of children earned her the "Champion of Safe Kids Award" from the National Safe Kids Campaign, the "Humanitarian of the Year" award from the Danny Foundation, and the "Clarion Award" from the National Parents Day Coalition. In 1995, Chairman Brown received the "Government Communicator of the Year Award," and in 1996, the Golden Trumpet Award from the Publicity Club of Chicago. In 1996 she also received the Margaret Dana Award for excellence in voluntary standards development from ASTM.

Her leadership of agency efforts to provide better customer service has been honored by four awards for reinventing government from Vice President Al Gore. The awards commended the CPSC for its improved Hotline, for an innovative telecommuting program, for its work to simplify government telephone Blue Pages listings, and for a program that speeds up the recall of defective products. CPSC was named a 1998 winner of the Innovations in American Government Award for its Fast-Track Product Recall Program. Innovations awards are a program of the Ford Foundation, administered by Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, in cooperation with the Council For Excellence in Government.

For more than two decades prior to her appointment, Mrs. Brown was a consumer advocate. She served as vice president of the Consumer Federation of America for nearly 15 years, and was chairman of the board of the consumer advocacy group Public Voice from 1983 to 1994. In 1989, she was named "Washingtonian of the Year" by Washingtonian magazine.

Mrs. Brown attended Smith College from 1955 to 1958 and received a B.A. in 1959 from The George Washington University. She has been married since 1960 to attorney and former Harvard Business School professor Donald Brown. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.

For additional information, call CPSC's Office of Public Affairs, (301) 504-0580.



U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
Administrator

David J. Barram

Dave Barram was appointed Administrator of the General Services Administration in March, 1996 by President Clinton. As the number one official, Mr. Barram directs all functions assigned to this independent agency of the executive branch.

GSA has been around since 1949. In a nutshell, GSA houses federal workers and provides products and services to support the important work of government throughout the country. GSA negotiates contracts that account for over \$40 billion of goods and services bought annually from the private sector. GSA employs about 14,300 people and has an annual budget of just over \$13 billion.

Of GSA, Mr. Barram says, "This is not your father's GSA." Under Vice President Gore's National Performance Review (NPR), GSA has embraced change with energy and enthusiasm and is fundamentally reshaping itself, streamlining the processes and becoming more client focused. Under the NPR, GSA is saving money on new construction, reinventing the space leasing process, getting the best prices on goods and services for our clients, leasing vehicles at low prices with great service, and negotiating low air fares for federal travelers.

Mr. Barram came to GSA from the Department of Commerce, where he had served as Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer since October 1993. While there, he directed the day-to-day operations of the 36,000-person organization. In addition to heading GSA, Mr. Barram is vice chair of the President's Management Council (PMC), made up of the chief operating officers of the executive branch agencies.

A 24-year veteran of Silicon Valley, Mr. Barram played a key role in shaping and implementing the federal government's technology initiatives while in senior positions at Apple Computer, Silicon Graphics, Inc. and Hewlett-Packard. Mr. Barram joined Hewlett-Packard in 1970 and spent 13 years in finance and marketing positions. In 1983, he left the then-80,000-employee HP to become the first Chief Financial Officer at 30-person Silicon Graphics. In April 1985, he joined Apple Computer as the Vice President of Finance and CFO and also held the positions of Vice President of Corporate Affairs and Vice President of Corporate Communications.

Throughout his career, Mr. Barram has been a strong advocate for American industry and workers. In addition, he has been actively involved in education issues, encouraging the use of advanced technology in the classroom and job-based training. He chaired the California Commission of Public School Administration & Leadership, and he continues to serve on the board of the National Center for Education & the Economy, which published the report, *America's Choice: High Skills or Low Wages?*

Mr. Barram earned a bachelor of arts degree from Wheaton College in 1965 and holds a master's degree in business administration from Santa Clara University.

From 1966 to 1969, Mr. Barram was a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy. After receiving his commission in December 1966, Mr. Barram served his active duty aboard two coastal mine sweepers on the East Coast, including his last 18 months as officer-in-charge of the USS Kingbird (MSC-195) in Pensacola, FL.

Mr. Barram and his wife, Joan, live in Washington, D.C. Their son, Ted, works for Digidesign in Palo Alto, California, and their daughter, Diane, is part of the start-up team for a national restaurant chain, Pallino Pastaria, in Seattle, Washington.

1800 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20405-0002



Carole Black
President and CEO
Lifetime Television

Burbank, CA -- February 15, 1999 -- Carole Black, veteran television executive and currently President and General Manager of NBC4 in Los Angeles, has been named President and CEO of Lifetime Entertainment Services, it was announced today by Robert Iger, President of ABC, Inc. and Frank A. Bennack, Jr., President and CEO of The Hearst Corporation.

In her new position, Ms. Black will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the premier provider of women's programming, including marketing, advertising sales, affiliate sales, new media, research, programming, strategic planning and operations. Ms. Black will oversee both Lifetime Television and the recently launched Lifetime Movie Network. Lifetime Entertainment Services is a 50/50 joint venture of The Hearst Corporation and The Walt Disney Company.

"Carole's record at NBC4, along with her vast experience, makes her the perfect person to lead Lifetime into the next millennium," says Anne Sweeney, President of Disney/ABC Cable Networks and a Co-Chair of Lifetime. "The Lifetime Networks will benefit significantly from her programming experience as well as her sharp business and management abilities."

Raymond E. Joslin, President of Hearst Entertainment and Syndication and the other Co-Chair of Lifetime, added, "Lifetime has been the leading television service for women for more than a decade. I'm confident that under Carole's leadership, the network will prosper further as the primary place for women's programming and information."

Ms. Black most recently served as President and General Manager of NBC4 in Los Angeles, where she was responsible for the day-to-day management of all areas of operation, including news, programming, sales, marketing, promotion, strategic planning and operations. Ms. Black was the first woman to head a commercial station in the Los Angeles marketplace.

Under her leadership, NBC4 enjoyed unparalleled success, rising from second in the marketplace to a dominant number one in the Southern California area in less than two years. In 1998, NBC4 became the first station to win seven out of seven weekday and weekend news races in a sweeps period, topping its own record of winning six out of seven in both 1996 and 1997. In the sales arena, NBC4 became the market's top billing station in 1996 for the first time in decades. It continued its sales

domination in 1997 and 1998, with the last three years being the most profitable in the station's 50-year history.

Prior to her appointment at NBC4, Ms. Black was Senior Vice President, Marketing, Television, at the Walt Disney Company, where she was key to the conceptualization and launch of "The Disney Afternoon," the highly successful children's programming franchise. She also led the marketing effort on the sale of "Home Improvement" into syndication, which proved instrumental in making that comedy series one of the most profitable shows ever sold.

From 1986 to 1988, Ms. Black served as Vice President, Worldwide Marketing Home Video for Disney, where she was credited with establishing brand management and the enormously successful sell-through business of Disney-branded films. Under her direction, the domestic video division rose from sixth to first, and the Disney brand became the dominant leader throughout the world.

Prior to joining the Disney organization, Ms. Black worked at DDB Needham in Chicago from 1983 to 1986, where she rose from Account Supervisor to Senior Vice President, Management Representative. She began her career in brand management with Procter & Gamble in her native Cincinnati, just after she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature from Ohio State University.

Active in the television industry, Ms. Black currently serves on the Board of Directors of HRTS (Hollywood Radio and Television Society) and NATPE (National Association of Television Programming Executives).

CPSC Staff Study of

Safety Hazards in Child Care Settings

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Washington, D.C. 20207
April 1999**

CPSC Staff Study of Safety Hazards in Child Care Settings

Overview

- o The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff conducted a national study to identify potential safety hazards in 220 licensed child care settings across the country in October and November 1998.
- o CPSC staff investigated eight product areas with potential safety hazards: cribs, soft bedding, playground surfacing, playground surfacing maintenance, child safety gates, window blind cords, drawstrings in children's clothing, and recalled children's products.
- o Four types of licensed child care settings were visited: federal General Services Administration child care centers, non-profit centers, in-home settings, and for-profit centers.
- o Overall, two-thirds of the child care settings exhibited at least one of the safety hazards targeted in the study.
- o About 31,000 children, 4 years old and younger, were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for injuries at child care/school settings in 1997. CPSC is aware of at least 56 children who have died in child care settings since 1990.

Introduction

CPSC has long been concerned about hazards in the home, especially as they affect young children. Because similar hazards may be present in organized child care settings, CPSC staff conducted a national study of potential dangers in these settings to identify how to help prevent injuries and ensure greater safety for children.

Some hazards are obvious -- like playground surfacing that has worn thin and is littered with debris. Other hazards are "hidden" -- dangers that may not come immediately to mind as problems. Issues investigated in the child care study -- like the dangers of window blind cords or drawstrings on children's clothing -- are prime examples of hidden hazards.

Many child care settings provide safe environments for young children. Each year, however, thousands of children in child care settings are injured seriously enough to need treatment in U.S. hospital emergency rooms. Tragically, some of these children die from their injuries.

For example, CPSC is aware of at least 56 children who have died in child care settings since 1990. At least 28 of these children died from suffocation and/or asphyxia related to nursery equipment or soft bedding. About 31,000 children, 4 years old and younger, were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for injuries at child care/school settings in 1997. Eight thousand of these injuries occurred from falls on playgrounds.

Background

There are 21 million children under age 6 in this country; almost 13 million of them are placed in non-parental child care during some portion of the day. About 29% of these children are in center-based care, including day care centers, Head Start programs, and nursery schools. The other 71% of these children are in non-center-based care, including family child care, in-home child care, and care by a relative.

There are about 99,000 licensed child care centers. In addition, there are about 283,000 regulated or licensed family child care providers. In CPSC staff's review of state licensing requirements for child care, however, most of the hazards included in this child care study were not addressed. For example, although cribs are covered by both federal regulations and voluntary safety standards, many states did not require day care centers to use cribs that met all of these standards. Although virtually all child care settings use nursery equipment, like high chairs and strollers, none of the states reviewed had requirements for addressing recalled nursery equipment.

Description of Study

CPSC staff conducted a national study to identify potential safety hazards in child care settings during October and November of 1998. Eight product areas were examined, including: cribs, soft bedding, playground surfacing, playground surface maintenance, child safety gates, window blind cords, drawstrings on children's clothing, and recalled children's products.

CPSC staff visited 220 licensed child care settings throughout the country. Four types of settings were visited: 23 Government Services Administration (GSA)-managed child care centers, sponsored by Cabinet-level and independent federal agencies; 77 non-profit centers; 68 in-home settings; and 52 for-profit centers.

These child care settings were spread across three regions of the country: eastern (68), central (71), and western (76). Within each region, about 10% of the child care settings were GSA-sponsored; 40% were non-profit; 30% were in-home; and 20% were for-profit.

Where possible, participating child care settings were selected randomly from regional or national lists of licensed child care providers. When such lists were not available, selections were made from a variety of other sources, including Internet sites and local yellow pages.

CPSC field staff used a prepared checklist to observe conditions related to the eight product areas. Information from the checklists was entered into a database for further analysis.

Results of Study

Two-thirds of the child care settings in this study exhibited at least one of the targeted safety hazards. The overall results for each hazard are discussed below. To see how each different type of child care setting fared in this study, please refer to the attached chart.

o CRIBS: 8% of the child care settings had cribs that did not meet current safety standards.

Older cribs can present many dangers to children, including strangulation and suffocation.

More babies -- about 40 to 50 each year -- die in incidents involving cribs than with any other piece of nursery equipment. Most of these are older, used cribs. Since 1990, at least nine children have died in incidents involving cribs in child care settings. Children can strangle when their bodies slip between crib slats that are too far apart and their heads catch in the slats. Children can suffocate when their faces and noses are wedged between a too-small mattress and the crib. There also can be problems when used cribs are not sturdy or have catchpoints that can entangle children's clothing. In related nursery equipment, playpens have been involved in the deaths of at least eight children at child care centers since 1990.

CPSC enforces federal regulations on crib safety and has actively worked to develop and improve voluntary safety standards for cribs and playpens.

o SOFT BEDDING: 19% of the child care settings had cribs containing soft bedding.

Soft bedding may present a suffocation hazard for infants.

Each year, as many as 900 babies whose deaths are attributed to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) may have suffocated on soft bedding.

CPSC staff brought national attention to this issue by publishing a report in 1995 that linked soft bedding in cribs -- like quilts, comforters, and pillows -- with possible infant suffocation. In April 1999, CPSC recommended eliminating all soft bedding in babies' cribs to prevent deaths.

o PLAYGROUND SURFACING: 24% of the child care settings did not have safe playground surfacing.

o PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE: 27% of the child care settings did not keep the playground surfacing well-maintained.

Young children can be seriously hurt from falls on playgrounds.

For children under 6, playground-related injuries (about 90,000 each year) account for more visits to U.S. hospital emergency rooms than any other child care-related injury. About 15 children die each year from playground-related injuries, including at least three children on playgrounds at child care settings since 1990. Most injuries occur when a child falls from the equipment onto the ground. Fractures are the most commonly reported diagnosis, accounting for about one-third of the injuries. Injuries most often involve the head and/or face (37%) and arm and/or hand (37%).

To help protect children from serious injuries, especially head injuries, safe playground surfacing should have at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand, or pea gravel, or should be mats of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials. In addition, the surfacing should be properly maintained. CPSC staff found that playground surfacing at some child care settings included dirt, grass, bricks, asphalt, and thinly-laid wood chips over concrete -- all surfaces that will not protect children when they fall.

CPSC developed playground safety guidelines, which are widely used throughout the country, to design, construct, operate, and maintain safe public playgrounds.

o CHILD SAFETY GATES: 13% of the child care settings did not use child safety gates where necessary.

Child safety gates can protect children from hazards, especially falls down stairs.

Safety gates can prevent a wide range of injuries. For example, in 1997, over 100,000 children under 5 went to U.S. hospital emergency rooms with stair-related injuries. Many of these injuries might have been prevented had safety gates been used.

CPSC helped develop a voluntary safety standard for child safety gates.

o WINDOW BLIND CORDS: 26% of the child care settings had loops on the window blind cords.

Children can strangle in the loops of window blind cords.

About one child a month strangles in window covering cords. Many strangulations occur in the loop of the cords. At least two children since 1990 have died in child care settings after standing up in their cribs and becoming entangled in a window blind cord.

Because of CPSC's work with industry, all loops on mini-blind cords have been eliminated. CPSC also advises that child care providers with older miniblinds or venetian blinds cut the looped cord, remove the buckle, and put a safety tassel on each cord. Older vertical blinds and drapery cords should have tension or tie-down devices to hold the cords tight. When buying new window coverings, child care providers should ask for child safety features. For additional safety, cribs should not be placed near windows.

o CLOTHING WITH DRAWSTRINGS: 38% of the child care settings had children wearing clothing with drawstrings at the neck.

Drawstrings on clothing can catch on objects and strangle a child.

Since 1985, CPSC has received reports of at least 22 deaths and 47 non-fatal incidents caused by drawstring entanglement. At least one death since 1990 occurred at a child care location where a drawstring on a child's piece of clothing caught on playground equipment.

As a result of CPSC negotiations with industry, manufacturers have agreed not to include drawstrings at the neck of children's upper outerwear clothing and now adhere to a voluntary safety standard.

o RECALLED PRODUCTS: 5% of the child care settings had products that had been recalled by CPSC.

Using recalled nursery products and toys can be a hazard to young children.

CPSC is aware of at least three children in child care settings since 1990 who have died in incidents involving children's products recalled by CPSC. In each of these instances, a portable crib/playpen was involved in the deaths.

Removing potentially dangerous children's toys and products from the marketplace and people's homes is a top CPSC priority. In 1998, for example, CPSC conducted about 100 recalls (or about a third of all CPSC recalls) that involved more than 30 million children's products. If notices of recalled children's products were regularly posted or distributed in

child care settings, caretakers and parents would be better able to prevent deaths and injuries. Some of the CPSC-recalled products found at child care settings included toys, cribs, and bean bag furniture.

Conclusion:

After observing 220 child care settings across the United States, CPSC staff found that most of these settings (two-thirds) had at least one of the safety hazards targeted in this study. That means that children in these settings may be at risk of injury or death.

CPSC staff's review of state licensing requirements indicates that most of the hazards included in the study are not adequately addressed in these requirements. In many cases, it is likely that well-intentioned child care providers and parents are not aware that many of the hazards exist.

To help remedy this situation, CPSC staff prepared a "Child Care Safety Checklist for Parents and Child Care Providers." The checklist is easy to use -- with just eight points that should be examined in every child care setting. In addition, parents may want to use the safety checklist at home.

Nothing is more important than the safety of America's children. More of our young children die from injuries than from any disease. Because so many children are in child care at some point in their life, it is essential that these settings be as safe as they can be.

CPSC Staff Study of Safety Hazards in Child Care Settings

Percentage of Child Care Centers with Safety Hazard

	Overall	GSA	Non-Profit	In-Home	For-Profit
Unsafe Cribs	8%	10%	15%	8%	0%
Soft Bedding Present	19%	42%	21%	8%	14%
Playground Safety: Unsafe Surfacing	24%	5%	18%	46%	17%
Playground Safety: Poor Maintenance	27%	11%	24%	33%	31%
Safety Gates Not Used	13%	6%	8%	21%	13%
Blind Cord Loops Present	26%	22%	31%	26%	20%
Drawstrings on Children's Outerwear	38%	30%	45%	26%	47%
Recalled Products in Use	5%	4%	5%	6%	4%

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
PROMOTES GREATER INVESTMENT IN CHILD CARE**

Just Us Kids Child Care Center

April 12, 1999

Today, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visits a child care center to promote greater investment in child care and to empower parents with the information they need to make child care choices that are right for them. The First Lady announces the release of a new study on child care safety and efforts to help parents and child care providers identify and correct hidden hazards that may exist in a variety of care settings. In addition, Mrs. Clinton helps launch new efforts from Lifetime Television's child care awareness campaign, "Caring for Kids."

New Study From The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission For Parents And Care Givers. Today, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) releases a new Child Care Safety Checklist of potential hidden hazards in eight product areas -- cribs, soft bedding, playground surfacing, playground maintenance, safety gates, window blind and curtain cords, clothing drawstrings, and recalled products -- based on its assessment of 220 child care centers nationwide. The CPSC's recommendations include making sure that safety gates are used to keep children away from potentially dangerous areas, especially stairs, and abandoning the use of children's clothing with drawstrings around the hood and neck. Of the child care facilities studied, including private, non-profit, government-run and home-based centers, two-thirds exhibited at least one of the safety hazards. The CPSC will undertake an aggressive outreach program to get this vital information into the hands of parents and care givers nationwide. To help initiate this public information campaign, the General Services Administration (GSA), which runs child care centers for federal employees, will distribute the checklist to all of its centers in the United States.

Lifetime Television's "Caring for Kids" Campaign. To provide parents with the information they need, and give them the opportunity to have their voices heard, the First Lady helps launch new efforts from Lifetime Television's "Caring for Kids" campaign. In phase one of the campaign, Lifetime gathered thousands of parents' child care stories and amplified those voices in the documentary "Confronting the Crisis: Child Care in America." In its second phase, having heard from families facing child care struggles, Lifetime will work with a diverse group of partners, from child care providers to law enforcement officials, to amplify the voices and struggles of parents and others around the issue of child care.

The First Lady Urges Greater Investment in Child Care. The First Lady urged greater attention and investment in addressing the critical child care needs of America's working families. Millions of Americans, struggling to be both good parents and good workers, rely on child care and after-school programs for part of each day. As part of his balanced budget request, President Clinton called for significant new investments in child care -- to help working families pay for child care, build a good supply of after-school programs, improve the safety and quality of care, and promote early learning. According to the most recent figures, ten million families are eligible for federal subsidies, yet only 1.25 million received support in 1997. The First Lady urges the Congress to join in a bipartisan way to take action on child care this year.

Consumer Product Safety Commission Report Q & A
April 12, 1999

Q: What is the child care event in which the First Lady is participating today?

A: The First Lady will visit a child care center -- Just Us Kids, sponsored by the Department of Justice -- to promote greater investment in child care and make two announcements: (1) the release of a new study by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission on ways to identify and correct hidden hazards that may exist in child care; and (2) the launch of new outreach efforts of Lifetime Television's child care awareness campaign "Caring for Kids."

Q: As reported on the front page of today's USA Today, doesn't the CPSC Report suggest that child care is too dangerous, and that we should not invest in it?

A: No. The goal of the CPSC Report on child care safety is to strengthen child care. It points out hidden hazards that even the most diligent parent or care provider may not think to look for, both in the home and in a variety of child care settings. And, the CPSC has developed an easy Child Care Safety Checklist to empower parents and child care providers with the information they need to ensure safety. The checklist will help parents and child care providers to identify and correct some potential hazards, such as making sure that safety gates are used to keep children away from potentially dangerous areas, especially stairs, and abandoning the use of children's clothing with drawstrings around the hood and neck.

News from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20207

For Immediate Release
April 12, 1999
Release # 99-094

Contact: Russ Rader
(301) 504-0580 Ext. 1166

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Joins CPSC to Release Child Care Safety Checklist

WASHINGTON, D.C. – First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton joined U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Chairman Ann Brown today to kick off a national campaign to alert parents and caregivers to safety hazards in child care settings. Among the findings in a 1998 CPSC study of 220 child care settings across the United States, two-thirds had at least one safety hazard. CPSC visited four types of licensed child care settings, including federal, non-profit, for-profit and in-home.

“Some hazards are obvious, like playground surfacing that has worn thin,” said Brown. “Other hazards are hidden dangers that may not be obvious. Even the best parents and child care providers may not be aware of these hidden hazards.”

Many child care settings provide safe environments for young children. Yet, CPSC knows of at least 56 children who have died in child care settings since 1990. In 1997, about 31,000 children, 4 years old and younger, were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for injuries at child care and school settings.

The CPSC study looked at eight product areas with potential safety hazards in child care settings selected at random. Following are the results:

- 38 percent had children wearing outerwear with drawstrings at the neck.
- 27 percent did not keep the playground surfacing well-maintained.
- 24 percent did not have safe playground surfacing.
- 26 percent had loops on the window blind cords.
- 19 percent had cribs containing soft bedding.
- 13 percent did not use child safety gates where necessary.
- 8 percent had cribs that did not meet current safety standards.
- 5 percent were using products that had been recalled by CPSC.

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(child-care study)

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To help remedy the situation, CPSC has prepared a *Child Care Safety Checklist* for child care providers and parents to use. The checklist will help caregivers become informed about hidden hazards by giving them a list of things to look for to make their homes and child care settings safer for children. Parents can use the checklist when choosing child care settings and ensuring that the child care provider is vigilant in monitoring product recall announcements and removing dangerous items.

"*The Child Care Safety Checklist* will provide parents and child care providers with the information they need to ensure that children are safe in all child care settings," said First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. "This effort is part of the Administration's commitment to making child care better, safer and more affordable for America's working families."

"The safety of the children in our centers has always been of paramount importance," said David J. Barram, Administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), which administers 112 Federal childcare centers nationwide. "To do our job even better, by Mother's Day 1999 we will have computers online in all of our centers. Then, at a moment's notice, we can pass along safety alerts from CPSC. Those computers also can be used to provide a network for all GSA childcare centers to share best practices, ideas and information to improve all aspects of Federal childcare."

CPSC is sending the checklist to many groups nationwide, including the National Child Care Information Center, National Association for the Education of Young Children, Head Start, state licensing authorities and other providers and organizations that work with them. To get your free copy of the checklist, send a postcard to *Child Care Safety Checklist*, CPSC, Washington, DC 20207, or access CPSC's website at www.cpsc.gov.

"We want to get a checklist in the hands of every caregiver," said Brown. "Child care providers should use this checklist to go through their facility and make it a safer place for the children in their care."

To get all CPSC recall information sent directly to you or your facility by fax, send a fax with your name and fax number to (301) 504-0399. To receive this information by e-mail, send an e-mail to listproc@cpsc.gov and, in the message area, enter: Join CPSCINFO-L.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission protects the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death from 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270, or visit CPSC's web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov/talk.html>. For information on CPSC's fax-on-demand service, call the above numbers or visit the web site at <http://cpsc.gov/about/who.html>. To order a press release through fax-on-demand, call (301) 504-0051 from the handset of your fax machine and enter the release number. Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov>. To establish a link from your web site to this press release on CPSC's web site, create a link to the following address: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml99/99XXX.html>.

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(child care study)

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VIDEO ALERT

A satellite broadcast of a bites and cover package will be broadcast at the following times and coordinates. The video includes soundbites from First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and CPSC Chairman Ann Brown from today's event, and b-roll of safety hazards sited in the study, two different types of licensed child care settings, and tips for parents and caregivers.

Satellite Coordinates (C-Band)

Monday, April 12, 1999
TIME: 2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EDT
GE 2, Transponder 6
Downlink Freq.: 3820 mhz
Audio 6.2 & 6.8

Tuesday, April 13, 1999
TIME: 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. EST
GE 2, Transponder 6
Downlink Freq.: 3820 mhz
Audio 6.2 & 6.8

This feed is for your free and unrestricted use.

For technical questions about the satellite feed, contact Rachel Vitale at (800) 666-7882.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIFETIME TELEVISION COMMITS OVER \$5 MILLION DOLLARS TOWARD CREATING OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE PARENTS A GREATER VOICE IN NATIONAL CHILD CARE POLICIES

Lee Grant Documentary Confronting the Crisis: Child Care in America Premieres Tuesday, April 20 from 10-11pm ET/PT
as Cornerstone of LIFETIME's Childcare Awareness Efforts

Washington D.C., April 12 –LIFETIME Television President Carole Black today joined First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to launch a \$5 million effort to give parents a greater voice in national child care policies.

Black, the first woman to lead the woman's television network, said, "We will use the power of television and cyberspace to expose the silent crisis that families go through everyday caring for their children. Having been a single working mother, I know first-hand how overwhelming that can be."

Black continued, "But our commitment doesn't stop at programming. We want to use our power to connect women and their families so that they understand and use the power they have to change the political and cultural landscape on childcare issues."

LIFETIME kicked off "Caring for Kids: Our Lifetime Commitment" in March, 1998, when the Network partnered with leading women's and children's organizations representing more than six million women (including Families and Work Institute, the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families and the National Council of Women's Organizations, which encompasses organizations including NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Childcare Action Campaign and the YWCA of the U.S.A.) and the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to draw attention to the childcare crisis in this country.

Throughout the year, via a toll-free number (1-800-522-0925) and Lifetime Online (www.lifetime.com), LIFETIME gathered thousands of childcare stories from women and families across the country and presented them to all Members of Congress, the President and the First Lady, who read one of LIFETIME's stories in a Rose Garden Ceremony. The Network and its partners also served as the catalyst for one e-mail writer to testify before the Senate Banking Committee.

A cornerstone to LIFETIME's \$5 million commitment is special programming on childcare. LIFETIME Television exposes the daily drama faced by millions of parents doing their most important job - caring for kids—in an original documentary "CONFRONTING THE CRISIS: CHILDCARE IN AMERICA," directed by Academy Award-winning director Lee Grant. Actress and hosted by Kyra Sedgwick. This one-hour special premieres Tuesday, April 20 from 10-11 p.m. ET/PT.

During the past year, Grant traveled across the country and interviewed families about how they are trying to meet their childcare needs. The documentary weaves the joys, challenges and hopes of parenting with critical national childcare issues. No matter if the families were headed by single mothers or couples, and regardless of economic or ethnic status, the story was the same-- finding affordable, quality childcare is a problem. And after speaking with employers and law enforcement officials, Grant finds that childcare shortages can have a negative impact on entire communities.

Stories include:

* A single mother from Phillipsburg, NJ works as a secretary to support her two children. She receives sporadic child support and can barely pay the childcare center which provides before-and after-school care

for her older daughter and full daycare for her young son.

* A Denver couple with two pre-teen sons feel they must be vigilant to keep their boys on the right track. Both boys attend an after-school program at their local YMCA.

* Single mothers in Marriott's Welfare-to-Work program in Boston, MA, have successfully completed training and are employed. But these young mothers, who face tremendous challenges will lose their childcare vouchers and Medicaid one year after graduating from the program. Earning little more than minimum wage, paying for childcare will be nearly impossible.

* A widowed single father from Easton, PA works long hours and fears that his young son is growing up without him. His sister has moved nearby so she can share some of the childcare duties.

* College students in early childhood education in Pennsylvania feel the passion and importance of teaching young children. But their supervisor points out that these enthusiastic young people could earn a better living walking dogs than taking care of preschool children.

* An upwardly mobile couple from Great Neck, NY are drowning in debt from graduate school and medical school loans. They have found and lost seven nannies since their three-year-old son was born.

* Sheriff Pat Sullivan of Denver, Colorado explains why early childhood programs as well as after-school programs for teens are the most effective way to prevent crime.

* A single mother from Phoenix, Arizona who's teenaged son was killed in a fight that took place after school.

* In addition, the film's producers traveled to France and spoke with two families about the country's successful and popular national childcare system. Both families discuss the sense of security the national system provides for the rich and poor alike.

In addition to the original documentary, LIFETIME's late night magazine series "New Attitudes," with hosts Leanza Cornett and Kim Coles, will air a five-part series on childcare beginning the week of Monday, April 19 at 11PM ET/PT as well as public service announcements.

LIFETIME Television is dedicated to providing contemporary and informative programming for women. LIFETIME is available on more than 11,000 cable systems and alternative delivery systems nationwide, serving over 73 million households. Learn more about LIFETIME Television on the Lifetime Online website at www.lifetimev.com.

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Contact: Kate Gerwin Goldberg, LIFETIME Television, 212/424-7343
Winnie Atterbury, LIFETIME Television, 212-424-7396
Andrea Camp, 410-719-2309

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Safety hazards loom at day-care centers

By Jayne O'Donnell, USA TODAY

Two-thirds of 220 day-care centers studied by a federal agency last year had at least one safety hazard that put children at risk of injury or death.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission, which is releasing its findings Monday, says the two most common problems were children wearing clothing with neck drawstrings and improper or poorly maintained playground surfaces.

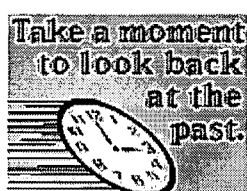
The agency, which will not identify the facilities studied, says at least 56 children have died in child-care settings since 1990. In 1997 alone, 31,000 children under 5 were treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries that occurred in child care or at school.

About 13 million children under age 6 spend at least part of the day being cared for by someone other than parents.

The commission says that at 38% of the facilities it studied, children were wearing clothing with neck drawstrings. At least 22 children have died since 1985 after being entangled in such drawstrings.

Apparel makers no longer put them on kids' clothes, but the agency says child-care workers share responsibility with parents for removing drawstrings because they are the ones who put the children on playground equipment where the drawstrings pose the greatest

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danger.

About 8,000 of the children who were sent to emergency rooms in 1997 were injured on playgrounds, most from falls. The agency recommends that playgrounds have at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch or very small gravel. It says 27% of the centers studied had inadequate playground surfaces.

"This is all learned behavior," agency chief Ann Brown says. "Grass is one of the no-nos, and nobody knows that."

Of the child-care facilities studied, 19% had cribs with soft bedding. The agency says parents and caregivers should avoid blankets, comforters and pillows altogether.

At least 28 of the children who died while in child care this decade suffocated or were strangled by soft bedding or nursery equipment, including cribs or playpens.

Other hazards found:

- ▶ Loops on window blinds.
- ▶ Doorways and stairs without safety gates.
- ▶ Cribs that don't meet current safety standards.
- ▶ Recalled products.

The agency says there are 99,000 licensed child-care centers and 283,000 regulated family child-care providers in the USA. But it says most of the hazards are not adequately covered in licensing requirements.

The agency is distributing a checklist identifying hazards.

To get a free copy, send a postcard to: Child Care Safety Checklist, CPSC, Washington, D.C. 20207 or check CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov.

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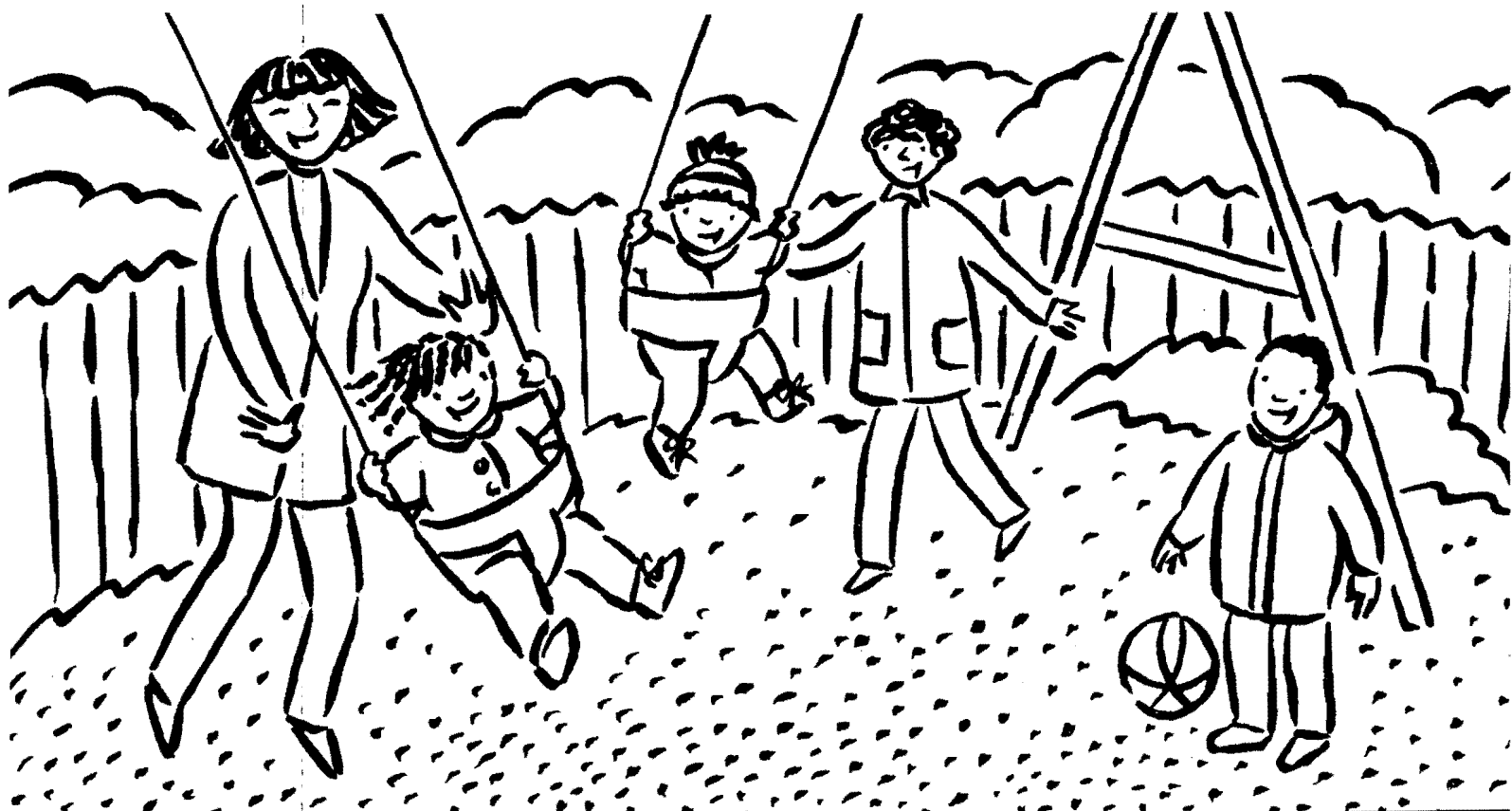
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Child Care Safety Checklist

FOR PARENTS & CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

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CHAIRMAN**

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Remarks of Ann Brown
Child Care Press Conference with Mrs. Clinton
April 12, 1999

Good morning. I am Ann Brown, Chairman of the
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

I am delighted to be here with all these wonderful
children and parents at Just Us Kids.

CPSC is the government agency that makes sure cribs,
toys and other products in your home are safe and recalls
them when they're not.

Keeping children safe is one of CPSC's most
important priorities.

We are pleased that First Lady Hillary Rodham
Clinton, who is so committed to the well-being of all
children, is here with us today to help us launch a new
child-care safety initiative. Thank you, Mrs. Clinton.

More than half of the nation's children under age 6 now spend a part of each day in child care.

A top priority for parents and child care providers is to ensure a safe environment for the young children they care for.

We all want to prevent injuries and eliminate potential safety hazards in child care settings.

But sometimes there are hidden hazards that even the best parent or provider is not aware of.

CPSC wants to help good parents be even better parents and to help child-care providers be the best caretakers they can be.

We want to empower them with information they can use to help them keep children safe in child care settings.

In October and November 1998, CPSC staff conducted a national study of child care settings across the United States.

We focused on eight potential hazards that have been a source of injury to children in their homes or in child care.

We wanted to find out if most child care providers were aware of these hazards, too.

Some of the hazards we looked for were obvious, like old cribs or playground surfacing that had worn thin.

Others were hazards that caregivers might not know about, like soft bedding in cribs, or products that had been recalled.

Still others were hidden hazards that might not be obvious even to the best parent or child care provider – like

the dangers of window blind cords or drawstrings on children's clothing.

CPSC staff visited 220 child care settings of different kinds in different parts of the country.

We looked at federal government centers, non-profit centers, in-home settings and for-profit centers.

We found that two-thirds of the 220 settings had at least one safety hazard.

For example:

- 24% did not have safe playground surfacing
- 26% had loops on window blind cords that could strangle young children, and
- 8% had cribs that did not meet current safety standards.

The good news is that most of the hazards we found can be easily and quickly corrected.

Mrs. Clinton will tell you more about some of these hidden hazards and how parents and providers can be empowered to correct them.

We know you will want to act as quickly as you can to make child care settings as safe as they can be.

We are pleased that GSA is committed to working with us on this project and helping to distribute safety information to all their parents and child care centers.

In addition we will be getting this information out to groups that work with child care providers, such as the National Association of the Education of Young Children and the National Child Care Information Center, as well as to other federal and state agencies.

And now it is my pleasure to introduce Carol Black, CEO of Lifetime Television.

Talking Points for First Lady at GSA Child Care Center

1. GSA Administrator Dave Barram has pledged that by Mother's Day 1999 GSA will provide all of its sponsored child care centers with computers and an Internet account with e-mail. This new child care network will allow GSA to provide at a moment's notice all Consumer Product Safety Commission alerts and bulletins on products that deal with children.
2. This new online network will make it possible to share safety information and other best practices for quality, affordability and accessibility. In the future, it will also enable parents and teachers to communicate through e-mail.
3. All GSA centers will receive the CPSC Safety Checklist and will be in compliance with the regulations. GSA will ask all of its centers to display safety information and distribute the checklist to parents.
4. GSA places tremendous importance on the safety & well-being of the 7,600 children in its 112 centers. All childcare workers are screened through criminal background checks, and stringent health & safety standards for facilities and furnishings are issued.
5. A safe environment is fundamental to quality. Nearly 70 percent of GSA's centers are accredited by national accrediting bodies (versus less than 10 percent in the private sector).
6. For too long, child care has been seen as primarily custodial -- where children are "dropped off." The time has come to emphasize the importance of child development and early education. We want to ensure that children in Federal child care centers are in safe, stimulating and nurturing places. We want those children to be well-prepared for beginning school.