



**Department of
Early Education and Care**
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Family Child Care Licensing

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: Protection from Window Hazards

606 CMR 7.07(10)(h) requires that children be protected from the hazards presented by windows, such as falling through an open window; injuries caused by a loose-fitting window; and broken glass from falling against and breaking a window installed close to the floor.

In addition to exercising good judgment and proper supervision, providers must take protective measures to prevent these injuries, which may include:

- Opening windows in child care spaces only from the top, so that the open area is at the top, not the bottom, of the window;
- Ensuring that furniture is placed far enough from an open window to prevent a child from climbing to reach the opening;
- Ensuring that furniture or other natural barriers prevent children from falling directly against closed, low-mounted windows;
- Installing or using blocking devices which prevent a window opened from the bottom from being raised more than four inches;
- Using blocking devices to ensure that casement windows (that crank-out) are opened no more than 4 inches;
- Installing window guards or barriers on open windows or on any low-mounted windows in child care space that are not otherwise protected¹.

Secure screens may only be used to prevent children from falling out of open windows that are less than four feet from ground level. Windows that have been approved as emergency evacuation exits may not be protected by window guards or barriers that would prevent immediate exit from the window.

¹ Care should be taken to ensure that window guards and barriers will not prevent access by fire safety personnel in the event of an emergency.