

Children's Mardi Gras Safety Tips

From D'Iberville Fire Department

The City of D'Iberville Fire Department would like for everyone to have a fun and safe Mardi Gras season. A big concern is to those who are unable to keep themselves safe without proper supervision. Here are some safety tips for dealing with children during Mardi Gras activities.

- If you don't have children please keep an eye out for the little ones around you. They would like to have as good a time as you.
- First and foremost have a **pre-designated meeting place** in the event that someone in your group gets lost. It is a good idea to have children carry some sort of **identification card** that includes their name, address, telephone number, and prearranged meeting place.
- Make sure your children know that if they get lost to **find the nearest law enforcement officer** and tell them their names, parents' names, and the designated meeting place of the family.
- **Avoid alcohol consumption.** It may impair your judgment and limit your ability to care for your children.
- Make sure your children know to **stay with you and away from strangers.**
- Make sure to remind your children to **stay out of the street**, particularly during parades when it is very tempting to follow marching bands and the colorful floats.
- Always **watch what your children catch**, especially toddlers and infants who can choke on small beads and trinkets. A good rule to remember is if the toy will fit in the cardboard cylinder of a roll of toilet paper it is a choking hazard for children.
- A little trick to help keep the little ones happy is to **keep a hand full of beads handy** where you can get to them so that you are able to drop them into your child's hands or seat if they are having a hard time catching throws. A small stuffed toy is also a good item to do this with.
- **Remind your children to be careful when reaching down to pick up throws.** It is a better idea to put a foot on the trinket and pick it up when it is safe. Otherwise, they may get their fingers smashed when someone accidentally steps on their fingers as they reach to pick up throws.
- **Avoid putting your child on your shoulders.** Crowds move unexpectedly, making it easy for your child or both of you to be knocked over and possibly injured.

- **Do not let your children approach horses** at the parades unless the rider indicates it is safe.
- **Do not allow your children to climb on barricades.** During all the excitement crowds sometimes knock over barricades and cause injuries.