

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Media Relations
Nationwide Children's Hospital
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**RESIDENTS IN ROSS AND PICKAWAY COUNTIES INVITED TO
'SPARK' PROJECT EVENT**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Families in Ross and Pickaway counties are invited to attend *Family Safety Day*, a free event hosted by the SPARK Project at the Pickaway Ross Career and Technology Center (895 Crouse Chapel Rd. in Chillicothe) on Saturday, November 19, 2011, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. This fun-filled event is designed to educate families about injury prevention through hands-on learning opportunities and activities for kids. Refreshments will be provided at the event, which is sponsored by the Center for Injury Research and Policy (CIRP) of The Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

The SPARK Project – Safe Play Areas for Ross County Kids – at CIRP was funded by the Central Benefits Health Care Foundation in 2010 to focus on strategies to reduce play-related injuries to kids. Every year, thousands of children are treated in emergency departments for injuries received while playing on playgrounds and playing on farms. The SPARK Project at CIRP is working with partners in Ross and Pickaway counties to promote safer play environments for kids and to educate families about injury prevention. One way the SPARK Project is collaborating with community groups to keep kids safe from injury is by hosting the *Family Safety Day* event.

Event attendees will be introduced to local agencies and organizations providing safety services, as well as qualify for door prizes which include bike helmets, Wal-Mart gift cards and safety-related items. Fun, interactive displays will include a puppet show presented by the Red Cross, a handwashing exhibit with glow lights, and an activity with battery-powered toy farm animals. Other safety topics to be presented include water safety, CPR, poison prevention, disaster preparedness, and many more. For more

information on the *Family Safety Day* event, please contact Sarah Krygowski at 740-688-1249.

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NOTE TO EDITOR: Phone interviews with SPARK Project staff are available prior to the event by contacting Media Relations at Nationwide Children's Hospital (614) 355-0495 and media representatives are cordially invited to attend the *Family Safety Day* event.