

SAFETY CORNER

LEAVE It Alone

Jumping in leaf piles is all part of harmless fall fun, right? Well, it depends. Before you or your children dive in, keep some of these hidden dangers in mind:

MOLD: If leaves are wet, there's a risk of exposure to dangerous bacteria such as mold. For kids with allergies or asthma, this can be especially dangerous.

PARASITES: Bugs such as ticks can be in the piles. If the pile has been there for a few days, even snakes can slither in for a quiet place to rest.

STICKS AND STONES: If rocks and branches have been raked along with the leaves, they can pose danger to a child.

EXTRA CAUTION: Advise your child to never hide in leaf piles, especially those along a road. There have been incidents of children who have been run over by cars while hiding in leaf piles.

