

Anyone with young children in their house should take precautions to ensure the home is safe. Here are some guidelines:

Nursery

- Make sure your crib has less than 2 and 3/8 inches between the slats and that the crib mattress fits snugly, allowing no more than two fingers' space between the mattress and the crib railings.
- Lower the crib when baby can sit up without help.
- Don't place the crib or other children's furniture in front of a window.
- Make sure all blind cords are out of baby's reach.
- Choose a changing table/pad with a safety belt; never leave baby unsecured on any other raised surface.
- Remove hanging toys, including mobiles, by the time baby can get up on his hands and knees.
- Don't place wall hangings above the crib if there's a chance it could fall in.
- Make sure there are no plastic bags or other plastic material in or around the crib.
- Place a smoke detector in or near your child's bedroom.
- Cover all electrical outlets.
- Place baby on his back to sleep to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

Bathrooms

- Adjust water temperature on the water heater to 120° or less.
- Always check baby's bath water before putting baby in it.
- Use rubber slip-proof mats in the tub and on the floor to avoid falls.
- Never leave babies or young children alone in water.
- Keep toilet lids closed. Toilet locks are available. Or keep the doors closed and use a doorknob cover.
- Keep electrical appliances unplugged when not using and out of a child's reach.
- Store medicines, including vitamins, out of a child's reach. Lock them in a cabinet if possible with child-resistant caps.
- Put safety locks on all cabinets that contain potentially harmful substances, such as cleaners, medications, etc.

Kitchen

- Store potentially dangerous materials (e.g., cleaning supplies) out of a child's reach in locked cabinets (away from food).
- Keep knives and other sharp objects, as well as appliance (e.g., toasters) out of a child's reach.
- Keep your dishwasher latched.
- Keep hot foods and drinks away from the edge of counters and tables.
- Make sure chairs and step stools are away from counters and stoves.
- Avoid using tablecloths that can be pulled down.
- Use backburners on the stove whenever possible, and turn pot handles toward the back of the stove.
- Make sure your highchair is difficult to rock and has a safety belt.

General

- Consider using doorknob covers to prevent children from entering certain rooms or the garage/basement.
- Cover corners and sharp edges if possible.
- Use baby gates to block stairways.
- Cover all electrical outlets.
- Keep electrical cords out of a child's reach; check and replace cords that are frayed.
- Keep small objects out of baby's reach. If an item will fit into a toilet paper roll, it poses a choking hazard.
- Keep plants out of a child's reach.
- Program numbers for Poison Control and other emergency services in your phone or post near the phone.
- Make sure your house has no lead paint.
- Keep matches and lighters out of a child's reach.
- Keep space heaters out of a child's reach.
- Install smoke detectors throughout your home and check them regularly to ensure they're working.
- Make sure you have two unobstructed ways to get out of your house or apartment.
- Make sure any pools are covered and fenced, and never leave a child alone in or near a pool.
- Secure large televisions, bookcases and other large items that could tip over.
- Repair or throw away broken toys.