

Safety Checklist for Home

Use this checklist to help make your home a safer place for children. Share it with your child's caregivers or grandparents so that their homes will be safer to visit.

Water and bath safety

- Never leave a child alone in or near water, including in the bathtub.
- Place a non-skid mat or non-slip strips in the bathtub or shower.
- Keep the toilet lid closed, and use a lid lock.
- Empty buckets that have liquid in them.
- Have your child wear a life jacket on boats, on docks and around lakes, rivers and the ocean.
- Fence all four sides of a swimming pool, hot tub or spa.

Poisons

- Store medicine, cleaning products, dishwasher soap, makeup and other unsafe products out of reach or in a locked cabinet.
- Keep products in the bottles they come in.
- Buy products with child-resistant caps.
- Keep houseplants out of reach.
- If you have gas or oil heat or an attached garage, install a carbon monoxide detector near all sleeping areas.
- Post the number for the Poison Center near each phone: 800-222-1222. The American Academy of Pediatrics no longer recommends that ipecac syrup be used in the home to treat poisoning.



Doors and windows

- Use safety glazing on glass doors and panels.
- Use doorknob covers on doors so toddlers can't leave the house or enter unsafe rooms.
- Cut window blind or drapery cords, and use safety tassels.

Fire/burn safety

- Install a smoke detector on each floor and outside each bedroom. Change the batteries twice a year.
- Make a fire escape plan. Practice it.
- Place guards around heaters and fireplaces.
- Buy flame-resistant sleepwear for children.
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach.
- Make sure one window in each room is easy to use as a fire escape.
- Use "cool" nightlights. Keep them away from drapes and bedspreads.

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- Set your hot water heater at 120°F (49°C).
- Use a cool-mist humidifier (not a vaporizer).
- Keep hair dryers and curling irons unplugged and stored out of reach.
- Never hold your child when you are drinking hot liquids.
- Keep cups and dishes with hot contents away from the edges of tables.

Electrical cords and outlets

- Put plastic plug covers in unused outlets.
- Protect outlets with ground fault circuit interrupters.
- Repair frayed cords and loose plugs.
- Keep cords and power strips out of reach.

Falls

- Never leave a baby alone on a changing table, sofa, bed or other high place.
- Keep changing supplies within reach when changing your baby.
- Place a carpet or a non-skid rug under the crib and changing table.
- Place self-latching doors or non-accordion gates at the top and bottom of stairs.
- Do not use a baby walker with wheels.

Window falls

- Keep cribs, playpens, beds, chairs and other furniture away from windows.
- Use window guards, stops or safety netting on windows, balconies, decks and landings. Window screens do not keep kids in.

Choking

- Keep balloons and plastic bags away from children ages 3 or younger.

- Avoid smaller toys and toys with small parts for babies and young children. If an item can fit inside of a toilet paper tube, it is too small for them.
- Remove crib gyms, hanging toys and window shade cords from the crib when your baby can get up on their hands and knees.
- Don't serve these items to children less than 4 years of age: chunks of hard fruit or vegetables, grapes, hot dogs, sausages, popcorn, chunks of cheese or meat, round candies or nuts.

Toys

- Choose toys that are right for your child's age.

Furniture

- Cover sharp edges and corners.
- Secure TVs and lamps so that they cannot tip over. Secure bookshelves and other heavy furniture with wall brackets.
- Make sure furniture is not painted with lead paint.
- Check to see if used baby furniture and gear has been recalled. Contact the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at www.cpsc.gov or 800-638-2772.
- Cribs and playpens should be sturdy, with bars no more than 2-3/8 inches apart. Check that cribs are in good repair, with mattresses fitting closely against the sides. Don't use bumper pads or very soft bedding, such as sheepskins or beanbags. Babies should sleep on their backs for naps and at night.
- Use a sturdy, stable high chair with a secure locking tray and a belt with a crotch strap. Always be near and watch babies and toddlers in high chairs.
- Use baskets or boxes without lids to store toys.

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Healthy families

- All parents feel stressed at times. Use the 10-foot rule. If you are angry, make sure the baby is in a safe place and stay 10-feet away until you calm down. Never shake a baby.
- Have a plan for when you are feeling too much stress. Include a list of three people or places you can call when the stress of parenting is getting to you.

Kitchen

- Use the stove's back burners, and turn pot handles toward the back.
- Use knob covers or a stove shield to keep children from turning the oven on.
- Put scissors, knives and other sharp objects in latched or high cabinets.
- Keep hot foods, liquids and appliances out of reach.
- Keep chairs and step stools away from counters and the stove.
- Make sure heavy appliances (stove, refrigerator, etc.) can't be pulled over.
- Keep a working fire extinguisher nearby. Make sure older children and adults know how and when to use it.
- Remove refrigerator magnets that are small enough to fit in a child's mouth.
- Keep children away from the front of the oven when it is on.

Gun safety

- Store guns unloaded and locked.
- Store and lock bullets separately from guns.
- Use a gun safe, lock box or trigger or chamber lock to store guns.

Emergency response numbers

Keep numbers for emergency response, the Poison Center, the crisis line, your doctor and your name, address and phone number next to each phone in your home.

- **Washington Poison Center: 800-222-1222**
- **24-Hour Crisis Line: 206-461-3222 or 866-427-4747 (toll-free)**
- **Consumer Product Safety Commission: www.cpsc.gov**

To Learn More

- www.seattlechildrens.org
- Call 206-987-2500 or 866-987-2500 for the free booklet "Treating Childhood Emergencies and Illnesses." Select option 5 when calling.
- Your child's healthcare provider

Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call Marketing Communications at 206-987-5205 or 206-987-2280 (TTY).

This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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