

A Parent's Guide To A Safe Home



Children's Hospital
of The King's Daughters

CHKD.org/ParentingResources



CHKD Parent Education

Your Partner in Parenting

CHKD provides parenting education and resources to assist parents in creating safe and stable homes, where children can grow into happy, healthy, productive community members.

Parent Education Classes

CHKD.org/classes

Parent Resources

CHKD.org/ParentingResources

Community Resources

CHKD.org/HRPEN

Helpful Safety Links

Car seat safety handouts and information

CHKD.org/carseat

Safe Kids

safekids.org/safetytips

Consumer Product Safety Commission

cpsc.gov/safety-education

Like CHKD on Facebook and follow us on Twitter for important safety announcements.

A Parent's Guide To

A Safe Home

At Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters, we're committed to helping families stay safe. This guide for parents is full of helpful information to keep your home safe for everyone.

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Important Numbers

Emergency 911

Mental Health Assistance or Emergency 988

Doctor _____

Poison Control 1-800-222-1222

Police _____

Fire _____

Mom's work/cell _____

Dad's work/cell _____

Home Safety Misconceptions

Myth: Once you have safety-proofed your home, you never have to do it again.

Fact: Safety-proofing is an ongoing task. As children grow and develop, it is important to re-evaluate the environment.

Myth: Young children can be taught to avoid safety hazards, so there is no need to change the environment.

Fact: Young children are naturally curious and don't understand the dangerous consequences of their actions. Register for one of our parenting workshops or webinars at [CHKD.org/Classes](https://www.chkd.org/Classes), or listen to our practical parenting tips information at [CHKD.org/ParentingResources](https://www.chkd.org/ParentingResources).

Myth: Safety concerns are consistent over time, so it's not necessary to keep up to date with new trends.

Fact: Many new products are available to parents as consumers every day. It is imperative that parents stay up to date on safety hazards and product recalls.

General Safety Guidelines

Properly place smoke detectors throughout your home and test the batteries each month. Replace smoke detectors every 10 years. Change batteries every year.

Install a carbon monoxide detector on every level of your home. Check it once a month to make sure the batteries work. (NOTE: Mount alarms on the ceiling or wall at least 4 inches from doors, windows, fireplaces or forced-air registers.)

Learn infant and child CPR and first aid.

Keep flashlights handy and make sure they are in good working condition.

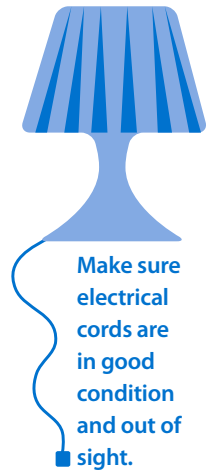
Make sure electrical cords are in good condition and out of sight.

Cover unused electrical outlets, including power strips, with protective devices.

Program emergency telephone numbers into your cell phone. Ensure that any care providers, babysitters, or older siblings also have these numbers programmed in their phone.

Make sure there are no accessible cords on the front, side or back of curtains or window blinds. All cords should be out of a child's reach. Visit [CPSC.gov](https://www.cpsc.gov) for updated window covering safety alerts.

Don't let children under age 5 play with objects small enough to fit inside a toilet paper tube. Small objects can post choking hazards.





Keep matches and lighters out of your child’s reach, preferably in a locked cabinet. Teach your child that these items are not toys.

Keep medicines, vitamins, alcohol and perfumes in a locked drawer or cabinet.

Keep electronic devices that contain coin-sized “button” batteries – such as key fobs, hearing aids, calculators, toys and greeting cards – out of your child’s reach.

Keep pocketbooks or handbags containing medicines or sharp objects out of your child’s reach.

Don’t smoke or vape in your home or allow smoking around infants and children.

Make sure your household plants are non-toxic. Visit poison.org for poisonous plants and information.

Make sure all space heaters in your home are UL-approved, in good condition and surrounded by a protective barrier or screen.

Keep wood-burning stoves and fireplaces in good condition, and surrounded by a protective barrier. Keep a fire extinguisher nearby.

Make sure stairs, walls, railings, porches and balconies are sturdy.

Make sure hallways and stairwells are well lit and free of clutter.

Keep your playground equipment and home, inside and out, free of any peeling or chipping paint.

Keep basement and attic doors closed and locked.

Lock up rifles and guns, and keep them unloaded.

Learn all you can about gun safety.

American Academy of Pediatrics
Guns in the Home: How to Keep Kids Safe



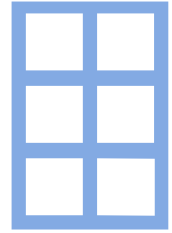
Lock up ammunition in a cabinet separate from guns.

Determine your best escape routes in the event of a fire or other emergency. Make sure escape ladders are available on every floor. Practice a fire escape plan with your family.

Teach your children to “stop, drop and roll” if their clothes catch on fire. Practice together.

Open windows from the top – not the bottom – whenever possible. Never open a window unless window guards are installed or window stops are engaged to keep windows from opening greater than 4 inches. Screens will not keep a child from falling out of a window.

Surround exercise equipment with protective gates or barriers.



Never open a window unless window guards are installed or window stops are engaged.

Kitchen Safety Checklist



- Poison Control Center and emergency numbers for fire, EMS, your child's physicians, and anyone else who is responsible for the care of your child(ren) are programed in your cell phone and/or posted near the telephone.

- Knives, scissors and other sharp objects are stored in a cabinet or drawer with a safety latch or lock.

- When in use, sharp objects such as knives, scissors and the cutting surface on plastic wrap and foil dispensers are well out of reach.

- Small parts and objects such as safety pins, coins, paper clips, button batteries, balloons, and needles are out of reach or in a locked cabinet or drawer.

- Household cleaning products and other poisonous substances are in their original containers and in a cabinet with a safety latch or lock.

- Potholders, dish towels and other flammable objects are stored away from the stove.

- Small appliances are unplugged and put away.

- There is a fire extinguisher in the kitchen.

- The dishwasher and oven doors are locked with a built-in mechanism or with an add-on appliance lock.

- A stove guard and knob covers have been installed on the stove.

- The garbage can and recycle bin are securely covered.



Lock up household cleaning products and other poisonous substances in their original containers.

Kitchen Safety REMINDERS

Keep young children away from the area where you are cooking.

Keep hot foods and liquids away from the edges of counters and tables, and never place them on mats or tablecloths that can be pulled off the table by young children.

Don't heat baby bottles or baby food in the microwave.

Never hang dish towels from an oven door. They can be used by a child to open the oven door.

Turn pot handles inward on the stove and use the rear burners for cooking whenever possible.

- ▶ Supervise children around microwaves and other heating sources.
- ▶ Test the temperature of all food before giving it to a child.
- ▶ Secure young children in highchairs with restraining straps, and never leave them unattended.
- ▶ Don't give children under 3 small pieces of food they can choke on.
- ▶ Never carry a child while holding hot food or liquids, including coffee or tea.

Bathroom Safety Checklist



**Adjust
water heater
temperature
to 120 degrees
Fahrenheit or
lower to prevent
scalds.**

- Appliances are unplugged and out of reach.

- Toilet lids are closed, and locks are installed.

- Bathroom doors have locks that can be opened from the outside.

- A non-skid mat or strips have been adhered to the bottom of the bathtub or shower.

- A non-skid rug or mat with non-slip backing has been installed on all bathroom floors to prevent falls.

- Water heater is adjusted to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or lower to prevent scalds.

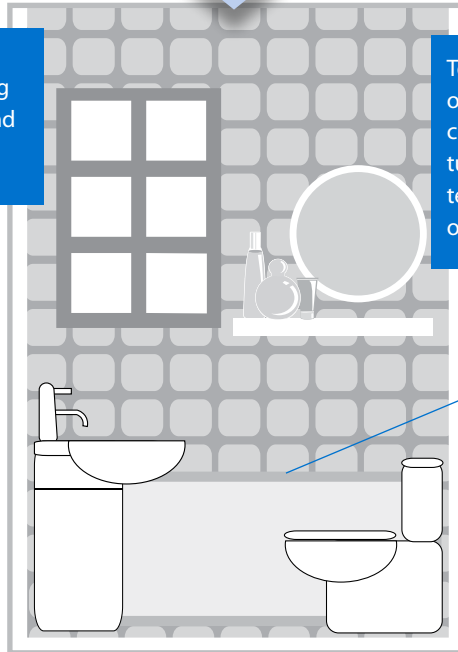
- All medicines, vitamins, mouthwashes and perfumes are in their original, child-resistant containers, locked, and out of reach of children.

- First aid kits are stored out of reach of children in a closet or medicine cabinet.

Bathroom Safety REMINDERS

Don't use electrical appliances (including radios, hair dryers and space heaters) near water.

Test the temperature of bath water before children get into the tub. Teach children to test the temperature of the water.



Never leave children alone in the bathtub or near any water. Children can drown in only a few inches of water in seconds.

▶ Always supervise young children when they are in the bathroom.

▶ Never leave young children unattended when they are bathing, even if you're using bath rings, seats, and other baby bathing aids.

Nursery Safety Checklist



- The crib meets crib safety regulations in accordance with Consumer Product Safety Commission requirements. [CPSC.gov/SafeSleep](https://www.cpsc.gov/SafeSleep).
- The crib has a JPMA safety certification label, to ensure its quality safety performance and functionality.
- Check with the crib manufacturer about certificate of compliance (for cribs purchased prior to June 28, 2011)
- There's less than the width of two fingers between the mattress and crib sides. The crib has firm, tight-fitting mattress with no missing, loose, broken or improperly installed screws or bolts on crib or mattress support brackets.
- The headboard and footboard of the crib don't have any decorative cutouts or openings.
- Crib gyms and mobiles have been removed for infants who can push up to hands and knees.
- No corner posts over $\frac{1}{16}$ inch high to prevent baby's clothing getting caught.
- Baby supplies, diapers and toiletries are out of reach. Avoid using baby powder.
- Toy chest has removable or spring-loaded supports that will keep the lid open in any position.
- The sides of mesh playpens and portable cribs are in the locked position.

Nursery Safety REMINDERS

Always place infants to sleep on their backs.

Never place crib near windows with accessible curtains or window blind cords due to strangulation risk.

Never use soft bedding like decorative comforters, pillows, crib bumpers or stuffed toys in your baby's bed because of the risk of suffocation.

Dress your baby in sleep clothing, such as a wearable blanket. Do not use a loose blanket, and do not over bundle.

- ▶ Never use cribs with sides that slide up and down. They have been recalled.
- ▶ Infants should sleep in a safety-approved crib or bassinet in the same bedroom as their parents for the first 6 months to 1 year.
- ▶ Never share a bed or sleep surface with an infant.
- ▶ Make sure no cords – such as electrical, blind or curtain cords – are hanging near the crib.
- ▶ Never leave an infant unattended on an elevated surface such as a changing table, couch or bed.
- ▶ Keep one hand on your baby at all times when changing diapers, dressing or bathing.
- ▶ Never use a baby walker. They are a common source of serious injury.
- ▶ Don't let children under age 5 play with objects small enough to fit inside a toilet paper tube. Small objects pose a choking hazard.
- ▶ Follow the ABCs to put your baby to sleep - Alone, on their Back, and in a Crib. For more information on safe sleep, visit [SafeToSleep.nichd.nih.gov](https://www.safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov).

Child's Bedroom and Playroom Safety Checklist



Gaps on the wooden frames of bunk beds are less than 3½ inches wide.

All furniture, beds or cribs, on which a child may climb, are away from windows or balconies.

Windows identified for emergency escape are accessible and easy to open by everyone in the family, including children.

An emergency escape ladder is located near each upper level escape window. (See the reference to safety drills and practice mentioned in general safety section.)

Windows that aren't used for emergency escape are safely secured with window guards that keep them from opening more than 4 inches.

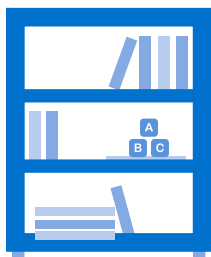
There are no accessible cords on the front, side or back of curtains or window blinds. All cords are out of the reach of children.

Rooms are free of clutter to prevent falls and injuries.

Bookcases and dressers are anchored to the wall with furniture guard brackets to keep them from falling onto children.

Unused electrical outlets, including power strips, are covered with protective devices.

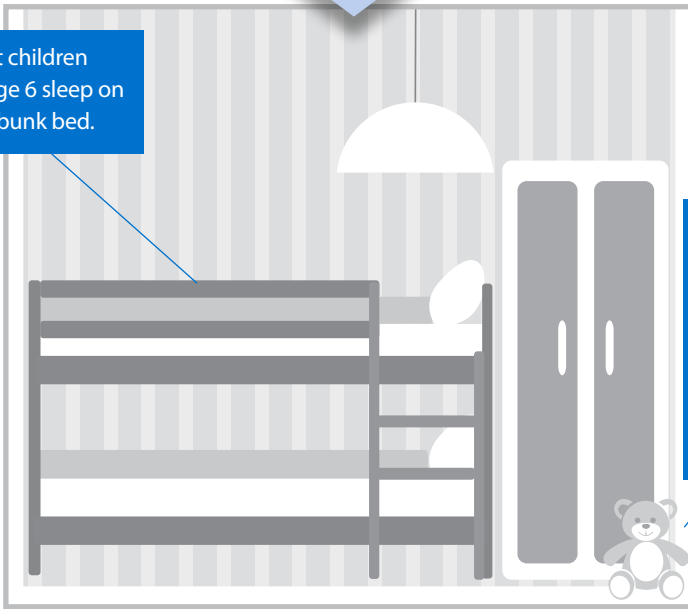
Toy chest has removable or spring-loaded supports that will keep the lid open in any position.



Bookcases should be anchored to the wall with furniture guard brackets to keep them from toppling onto children.

Child's Bedroom & Playroom Safety REMINDERS

Don't let children under age 6 sleep on the top bunk bed.



Toys need to be put away when they aren't being used. Keep the room free of clutter.

- ▶ Choose well-made toys for your child according to age, interests and skill level. Follow safety information warnings.
- ▶ Supervise children when they play. A toy intended for an older child may be dangerous in the hands of a younger child.
- ▶ Don't let children under age 5 play with objects small enough to fit inside a toilet paper tube. Small objects may pose a choking hazard.

Living Room Safety Checklist



- Wood-burning stoves, chimneys, and fireplaces have been inspected and are in good working condition.

- Fireplace doors are locked.

- Fireplaces are surrounded with protective barriers and/or gates.

- Safety cushions are installed on edges of the hearth.

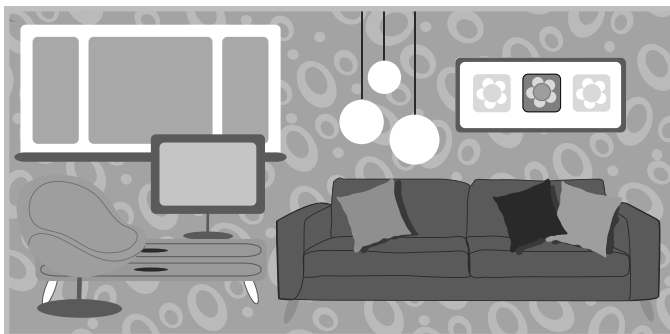
- Space heaters are UL-approved, in good condition, and surrounded by a protective barrier or screen.

- There are no accessible cords on the front, side or back of curtains or window blinds. All cords are out of the reach of children.

- Unused electrical outlets, including power strips, are covered with protective devices.

- Bookcases, TV stands, and freestanding shelves are anchored to the wall with furniture guard brackets to prevent them from falling over.

Keep curtains and window blind cords out of reach.



Reminder

- Rough or pointed furniture corners are covered with corner guards.

- Matches and lighters are out of reach, in a locked cabinet.

- There are no table runners or tablecloths that a child can pull on.

- There are no tip-over hazards, including TVs, fish tanks, furniture that is taller than it is wide, or furniture that rocks when tugged. Be aware that many pieces of furniture become easier to tip when drawers are pulled open and climbed/stepped upon.

Never leave young children alone when candles are burning. Keep candles, lighters and matches out of the reach of children. Teach children that these items are not toys.

Hallway & Stairwell Safety Checklist



- Hallways and stairwells are well lit.

- Slats on balconies and stairs are less than 3 inches apart.

- Sturdy handrails run the entire length of the stairs. They are wide enough that a child can grasp them easily and completely.

- Rugs or runners are tacked down or have slip-resistant mats under them.

- Toddler gates have been installed at the top and bottom of staircases and steps for homes with children under the age of 3.

- Toddler gates are JPMA-certified and mounted to the wall securely. (Don't use a V-shaped or accordion-style gate.)

Keep hallways and stairwells free of clutter.

Supervise children on the stairs to prevent falls.

Playground Safety Checklist



The surface under playground equipment is made from energy absorbent material – such as rubber, sand, sawdust at least 12 inches deep, wood chips, or bark – and is well maintained.

Playground equipment is put together correctly, sits on a level surface, and is securely anchored to the ground to keep it from tipping over.

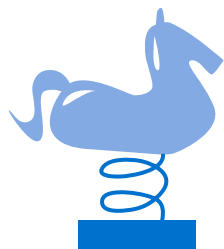
There are no sharp corners, edges or pinch points on play equipment, or anything that could snag on loose clothing.

All screws, nuts and bolts are secure and capped. There are no projecting bolts, nuts or s-links.

There aren't any openings on playground equipment that your child could stick their head in and get stuck.

The yard is free of clutter and debris.

Playground equipment and the house are free of peeling or chipping paint, inside and out.



Playground equipment should sit on a level surface and be securely anchored to the ground to keep it from tipping over.

Playground Safety REMINDERS

When playing on playground equipment, make sure shoes are securely tied and drawstrings on clothing are not dangling.

Always use sunscreen protection starting at 6 months old.

Check for hot metals, such as slides, to prevent burning.

Ensure that children always wear approved helmets and other protective equipment such as elbow and kneepads when they skate, skateboard, or ride bikes and scooters.



- ▶ Always supervise children on the playground. Do not allow pushing, shoving and fighting on equipment.
- ▶ Empty standing water or other solutions in buckets and wading pools.
- ▶ Provide proper hydration on hot days. Water is best.
- ▶ Provide proper outdoor clothing on cool days.

Pool and Yard Safety Checklist



A four-foot fence that cannot be climbed by children has been installed around all sides of the pool, per state of Virginia regulations.

Gates and fences self-close and latch. Latches are higher than children's reach.

Pool cover completely covers the pool.

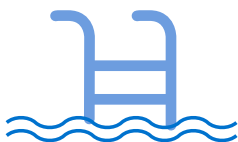
Rescue equipment, such as a shepherd's hook or life preserver, and a phone are near the pool.

Children know the rules of water and diving safety.

Everyone who watches children around the pool has been trained in infant and child CPR and lifesaving techniques.

Grills are at least 10 feet away from structures.

Spas and hot tubs are covered and locked when not in use.



Be sure your child knows the safety rules of water, swimming and diving.

Pool and Yard Safety REMINDERS

Teach your child never to pick and eat anything from a plant.

Be sure you know what's growing in your yard, so that if your child accidentally ingests a plant, you can give the proper information to your local Poison Control Center.

Do not allow young children in the yard while you are mowing or edging.

Never leave children alone in or near a pool, even for a moment.

- ▶ Use a power mower with a control that stops when the mower handle is let go.
- ▶ Never let a child younger than 12 mow the lawn. Make sure your older child wears sturdy shoes, with good traction, while mowing the lawn and that objects such as stones and toys are picked up from the lawn before it is mowed.
- ▶ Wear goggles to protect your eyes from flying debris when mowing the lawn.
- ▶ Never have a child on your lap while operating a riding lawn mower.
- ▶ Never grill indoors or near garages or porches.
- ▶ Never leave a grill unsupervised while cooking.

Garage Safety Checklist



- Cleaning products and other poisonous and flammable substances are in the original containers and stored in a locked cabinet, away from heat sources and out of reach.

- All tools and dangerous objects are in a locked cabinet.

- Automatic garage doors have a sensor that prevents them from closing on a child or object.

Garage Safety REMINDERS



Never store
gasoline
indoors.



- ▶ Close and lock garage doors when not in use.
- ▶ Take doors off old refrigerators and freezers.
- ▶ Keep keys to electrical equipment out of children's reach.



Emergency or Disaster Home Safety Tips

- ▶ Be informed – know what to do before, during and after an emergency.
- ▶ Make a plan and share it with your family.
- ▶ Build an emergency kit to include water, food, battery-powered radio, flashlights, extra batteries, whistle, manual can opener, etc.
- ▶ For national information, visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).
- ▶ In Virginia, know your zone for evacuation, [VAEmergency.gov/know-your-zone/](https://www.vaeemergency.gov/know-your-zone/).



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