



Home Safety for Children

Parents and guardians face constant challenges when trying to keep their children safe. The child's home is the most likely place they can be hurt, but it is also one of the few environments parents and guardians can directly influence. Please feel free to use this list to guide you through safe guarding your home. A **NO** response highlights a possible hazard for your child.

Kitchen

- YES** / **NO** - Do you cook on the back burners and turn pot handles toward the back of the stove?
- YES** / **NO** - Are hot dishes kept away from the edge of the table and countertop?
- YES** / **NO** - Are hot liquids and foods kept out of the child's reach?
- YES** / **NO** - Are knives and other sharp kitchen tools kept out of the child's reach?
- YES** / **NO** - Is the highchair kept away from the stove and other hot appliances?
- YES** / **NO** - Are matches and lighters kept out of the child's reach?
- YES** / **NO** - Are all appliance cords kept out of the child's reach?
- YES** / **NO** - Are cabinets and pantries equipped with safety latches?
- YES** / **NO** - Are cabinets and pantries kept closed when not in use?
- YES** / **NO** - Are cleaning products kept cabinets out of the child's reach?
- YES** / **NO** - Do you test the temperature of cooked food before feeding it to the child?

Garage/Basement

- YES** / **NO** - Are pesticides and other chemicals kept out of the child's reach?
- YES** / **NO** - Are detergents and other chemicals kept out of the child's reach?
- YES** / **NO** - Are tools kept out of the child's reach?
- YES** / **NO** - Are antifreeze and other chemicals kept out of the child's reach?
- YES** / **NO** - Is the trash kept in tightly covered containers?
- YES** / **NO** - Are guards or locks in place to keep children away from washers and dryers?

Child's Room

- YES** / **NO** - Is the child's bed or crib away from the radiator and other hot surfaces?
- YES** / **NO** - Is the crib safe? Check out www.nsc.org/library/facts/cribtips.htm
- YES** / **NO** - Is the paint or finish on furniture and toys nontoxic?
- YES** / **NO** - Are electrical cords kept out of the child's reach?
- YES** / **NO** - Is the child's clothing, especially sleepwear, flame resistant?
- YES** / **NO** - Does the toy box have a secure lid and safe-closing lids?
- YES** / **NO** - Are the toys in good repair?
- YES** / **NO** - Are the toys appropriate for the child's age?

Bathroom

- YES** / **NO** - Is the child always watched by an adult while in the bathtub?
- YES** / **NO** - Is the toilet lid kept down when not being used?
- YES** / **NO** - Are cabinets equipped with safety latches and always kept closed?
- YES** / **NO** - Are all medicines in child-resistant containers and kept in a locked place?
- YES** / **NO** - Are shampoos and cosmetics kept out of the child's reach?
- YES** / **NO** - Are razors, razor blades and other sharp objects kept out of the child's reach?
- YES** / **NO** - Are hair dryers and other appliances stored away from the sink, tub and toilet?
- YES** / **NO** - Does the bathtub bottom have a rubber mat or similar device to prevent slipping?

Parent's Room

- YES** / **NO** - Are cosmetics, perfumes and breakable items stored out of the child's reach?
- YES** / **NO** - Is jewelry out of the child's reach?
- YES** / **NO** - Is this room kept locked when not being used?

Front Yard/Back Yard

- YES** / **NO** - Are walkways, stairs and railings in good repair?
- YES** / **NO** - Are walkways and stairs kept free of toys, tools or other objects?
- YES** / **NO** - Are sandboxes covered when not in use?
- YES** / **NO** - Are all nearby pools enclosed within a locked fence that a child can not climb over?
- YES** / **NO** - Is the child's clothing, especially sleepwear, flame resistant?
- YES** / **NO** - Are the outdoor play toys age appropriate?
- YES** / **NO** - Are the outdoor play toys in good repair?
- YES** / **NO** - Is the outdoor play equipment properly assembled to manufacturer's instructions?
- YES** / **NO** - If there is a shed or other storage outside is it kept locked?
- YES** / **NO** - Is the trash kept in tightly covered containers?

General Home

- YES** / **NO** - Are stairways kept clear?
- YES** / **NO** - Are stairs and halls well lit?
- YES** / **NO** - Are safety gates installed at tops and bottoms of stairways?
- YES** / **NO** - Are guards or locks in place to keep children away from waterheaters or hot pipes?
- YES** / **NO** - Are guards or locks in place to keep children away from the furnace?
- YES** / **NO** - Are guards or locks in place to keep children away from washers and dryers?
- YES** / **NO** - Are unused electrical outlets covered with safety covers?
- YES** / **NO** - Are curtain cords and blind pulls kept out of the reach of the child?
- YES** / **NO** - Are windows secured with locks?
- YES** / **NO** - Are plastics bags kept out of the reach of the child?
- YES** / **NO** - Are fire extinguishers installed where they are most likely needed?
- YES** / **NO** - Are smoke detectors working properly?
- YES** / **NO** - Are carbon monoxide detectors working properly?
- YES** / **NO** - Does your family have an emergency plan in case of fire? Do you practice it?
- YES** / **NO** - Is the waterheater set at a safe temperature? (120F)
- YES** / **NO** - If you have a gun, is it locked in a place where the child can not get it?
- YES** / **NO** - Are all purses and brief cases (including visitors) kept out of the reach of the child?
- YES** / **NO** - Are all phones cordless, with the exception of the parents room?
- YES** / **NO** - Is a list of emergency phone numbers posted next to a phone?
- YES** / **NO** - Are you trained in infant & child CPR and 1st Aid?

Let this be a guideline, every home is unique and it is your job to make your home safe for your children. And don't just stop at home! Constantly be examining your home and other places your children spend time for possible hazards. Always supervise your children when they are playing in or around water and do not let them be exposed to second hand smoke or other reckless behavior.

