

# Home Safety Checklist

Do you know how safe your home is for your baby or young children?  
Use this checklist to help you spot what parts of your home are safe and where you can make it safer.

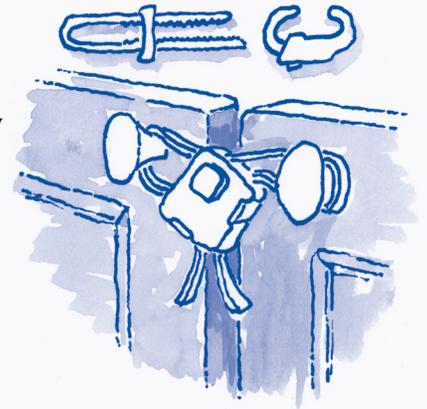
## 1 Safe Sleep

- Is your baby always placed on his/her back to sleep?
- Is your baby sleeping alone in a crib-type bed for nighttime and naps at home and away from home?
- Have you checked your baby's bed to make sure there are no broken or missing crib slats? Crib slats must be no more than  $2\frac{3}{8}$  inches apart (size of the top of a pop can).
- Is the crib mattress firm and fitted snugly inside the crib (no extra room around edges)?
- Is your baby's crib empty of pillows, comforters, stuffed toys, bumper pads and other soft items?



## 3 Safe Storage

- Are there safety latches or locks on cabinets and drawers that contain potentially dangerous items? These items include:
  - Vitamins
  - Cigarettes
  - Plastic bags
  - Matches and lighters
  - Knives, scissors, razors blades, and other sharp objects
  - Cleaning supplies, pesticides, and other poisonous materials – keep these in their original containers
  - Guns and ammunition – must be stored separately
  - Medications, including over-the-counter medicines



Remember: Child-resistant packaging is not child proof.

## 2 Bathroom

- When your child is in the bathtub, is an adult always present?
- Is your hot water heater set to never go above 120°F?
- When you run your child's bathwater, do you test the temperature first with your wrist or elbow?
- Are there non-skid strips or a mat on the bottom of the bathtub?

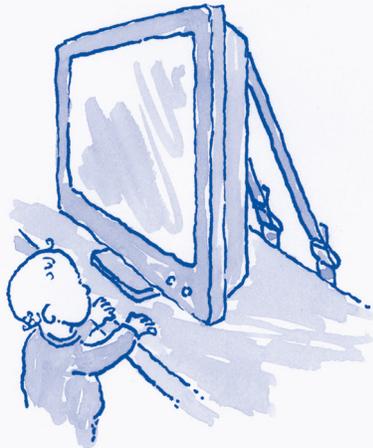
## 4 Kitchen

- Are small appliances in the kitchen (coffee maker, toaster) and bathroom (hairdryer, curling iron) unplugged and put away? If they cannot be stored in a cabinet or drawer, push them to the back of the counter.
- Are back burners on the stovetop used for cooking?
- Are pot handles turned toward the back of the stove?

## 5 Around the House

- Are the MN Poison Center phone number (1-800-222-1222) and other emergency contacts posted near all of your telephones, programmed in your cell phone or in an obvious location in your home? It is not necessary to keep syrup of ipecac in your home. In case of poisoning, always call the poison center and the experts there will advise you on what to do.
- Are small toys and objects that your baby could choke on out of reach and picked up off the floor?
- Are working carbon monoxide detectors installed within 10 feet of each room used for sleeping? Carbon monoxide detectors should be tested monthly and the batteries changed every year.
- Are working smoke detectors placed in each sleeping room as well as in the hallways outside the sleeping rooms? Smoke detectors should be tested monthly and the batteries changed every year.
- Is everyone living in your home aware of an emergency exit plan in case of a fire?
- Is your home smoke-free (no one smokes inside your home)?

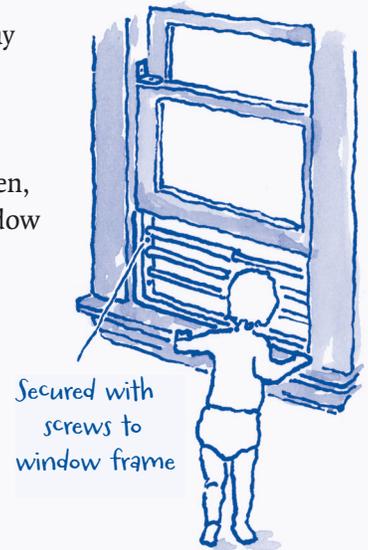
- Are heavy or unstable pieces of furniture, such as TVs, entertainment centers, and bookshelves, anchored to the floor or secured to the wall?



- Are safety/baby gates installed at the top and bottom of all stairs?

- Are there shock prevention plugs or covers on all unused electrical outlets?
- Are the windows in your house or apartment child-safe? Things to do:

- Move furniture away from windows.
- Keep windows, especially those reachable by children, locked or have window guards or stops to prevent them from being open more than four inches.



- Are electrical cords in good condition (not frayed)? Arrange the cords so they are out of your child's reach.
- Are you keeping your child safe from lead poisoning?
  - Peeling paint or paint dust on walls and windows can have lead if your home was built before 1978.
  - Certain folk remedies may contain lead.
- Are the pull cords for window blinds or draperies out of children's reach? If cords for blinds or draperies are looped, cut them to create two short cords.

## 6 In the Car

- Are age-appropriate child safety seats properly installed and used when children are riding in motor vehicles?
- Does everyone wear seatbelts (or ride in an age-appropriate, properly installed child safety seat) while riding in motor vehicles?

