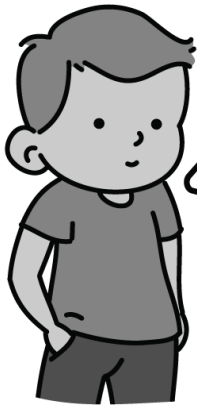




Keeping Your Little Explorer and Learner Safe



I want to explore everything, so please keep your eye on me to keep me safe.

Figuring It Out Together

Make Your Home Safe

Childproofing means eliminating possible dangers from your home. Not only does it keep your baby safe, it also cuts down on how often you have to say “No,” which allows baby to be freer to explore, discover, and learn. If you haven’t child proofed, now is the time to do so! You may be wondering, “How do I start?”

Whether you live in a city apartment, a mobile home, a house in the country, or student or military housing, there are common hazards and basic steps you can take to help keep your baby safe.

Use the home safety checklist below with your home visitor. As you do so, try to look through your child’s eyes. Get down on the floor at her eye level. What interesting and possibly dangerous things do you see? What is calling her to touch, taste, pull, or explore? What might be a danger to a new crawler or walker?

Post the phone number of your local Poison Control Center in a place where you can find it easily.

Choose Safe Toys

The American Academy of Pediatrics offers these tips about toy safety. You can use them to check for safety when buying a toy, checking out a used toy at a garage sale, or when your child is given a gift.



Choose toys that suit the age, abilities, skills, and interest level of your child.

These will build developmental skills. Toys that are too advanced may pose safety hazards for younger children.



Keep button batteries and magnets away from young children.

They can lead to serious stomach and intestinal problems – including death – if swallowed. Call your health care provider immediately if your child swallows one.



Do not give children under age 10 a toy that must be plugged into an electrical outlet to prevent burns and electrical shock.

Instead, buy toys that are battery-operated.



Look for toys without small pieces.

Young children can choke on small parts contained in toys or games. Government regulations specify that toys for children under age 3 cannot have parts less than 1 1/4 inches in diameter (slightly wider than a quarter) and 2 1/4 inches long. A toilet paper roll is an everyday item you can use to test if parts are too small.



Do not allow children under 8 to play with balloons.

Children can choke or suffocate on broken or uninflated balloons.



Remove tags, strings, and ribbons from toys before giving them to young children.

Watch for pull toys with strings that are more than 12 inches long because they could be a strangulation hazard for babies.



Read the label and instructions on toys.

Warning labels give important information about how to use a toy and what ages it is for. Be sure to show your child how to use the toy. The ages listed on the label are as much for safety as for appropriate ages to be engaging.



Store toys in a designated location, such as on an open shelf or in a bin.

Keep older kids' toys away from young children. If you use a toy box, choose one with no lid or a lightweight, non-locking lid and ventilation holes.



Being Safe Outside Your Home



Water Safety

Never Leave Your Baby Alone Around Water – in the tub, by a pool, even near a bucket of water.

For children under 5, drowning is a leading cause of death. Never leave your baby alone around water. Not ever. A baby can drown in less than 2 inches of water. It can happen quickly and quietly.



Sun Safety

A few serious sunburns can increase your child’s risk of skin cancer and eye damage later in life.

Protect your child’s skin from the sun’s harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays whenever she is outdoors by using sunscreen or clothing. Have your child wear sunglasses that block these damaging rays.



Car Safety

Your baby should ride in his car seat no matter how short the trip or how hard he protests.

Infant car seats should be installed in the back seat, ideally in the middle but, most importantly, in a position where it fits securely. It should face the rear of the car. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children should sit in a rear-facing seat until they are 2 years old or until they reach the weight and height limits of the seat’s maker. Read the owner’s manual for instructions. If you need help installing your car seat, check for a nearby child car seat inspection station or with your local health, police, or fire department. Ask for a certified child passenger safety technician to assist you.



Animal Safety

Teaching your child about how to be safe around pets and other animals will help your child – and you – be able to enjoy pets and even wild animals.

Animals can bring great delight and love to your child – and to you. Being safe with animals can enrich your child’s life.