



Parenting Tips: Summer Safety in the Home and Beyond

Note: Consider every possibility. Look at your home and surrounding area and ask, "What could happen?" Take steps to prevent something from happening.

Preventing Falls

1. Use gates on staircases to prevent children from falling down the stairs.
2. Keep the floor dry and free of objects.
Protect terraces, windows, and other elevated areas with gates or locks.
Cover any holes in the patio with durable material that children cannot move.
3. Utilize non-skid rugs and carpets with non-skid backings or tack rugs and carpets down securely.
4. Use anchor guards to stabilize furniture and appliances that could trip over.

Preventing Burns

Ensure that children do not play in the kitchen or near the stove or other electrical appliances.

When cooking on the stove, use the back burners or keep pot handles turned inward.

1. Store lighters and flammable liquids on a top shelf or in a locked room.
2. Avoid leaving burning candles at home.
3. Make sure all your electrical appliances are in good working order.
Use outlet protectors or heavy furniture to cover all unused electrical outlets.
4. Put all electrical cords out of children's reach, where they cannot play with or get tangled in them.
When having a B.B.Q., keep children away from the B.B.Q pit.
Always check the bath water temperature before placing your child in the tub.
5. Protect your children from the sun with sunscreen and protective clothing, such as hats.

Preventing Poisoning

1. Keep all medicine, poison or detergent in a high place, safe and out of reach of children.
2. Keep foods refrigerated and dispose of expired food products.
3. Do not use a B.B.Q. pit within the home or in an enclosed space with little ventilation.
4. Have the telephone number to poison control accessible.

Preventing Injuries

1. Store sharp objects away from children's reach (knives, scissors, needles, glass, etc.). Keep breakable items out of reach of children. If an item does break, make sure to clean up all pieces.
2. When throwing away open cans or glass, wrap them in newspaper before putting them into the garbage can.
3. Dispose of all broken toys and objects.
4. Be very mindful of safety around pets and other animals.
5. Use door safety locks to prevent children from opening doors to the outside or to rooms/closets that you don't want them to access. Window guards are also available.
6. Utilize oven locks, toilet lid locks, cabinet safety locks, and lock release fridge latches to prevent children from getting into these areas.
7. Use table edge guards on sharp edges of furniture to prevent children from badly hurting themselves when they fall.
8. If you have a firearm, it must be kept in a secure, locked area.
9. Store exercise equipment in a locked room.
10. Avoid games in which children hide in trunks, cellars, attics, empty refrigerators, or any other confined spaces.

Preventing Choking

1. Avoid sleeping in the same bed with children .
2. Store garbage bags away from children's reach.
3. Avoid using excessive blankets, pillows and toys in children's cribs and beds.
4. Wind up and tie electrical cords and cords from blinds and curtains to prevent children from tripping and getting tangled in them.
5. Keep small items out of reach of young children who could put them in their mouths and choke.
6. Be mindful that children eat large portions of food (of fruit, candy, etc.) that are more difficult to choke on.
7. When children are playing, scan the area for small objects that children could put in their nose or mouth (seeds, etc.).
8. Avoid games in which children use strings, shoelaces, belts, or other materials that can get wound around their necks.

Preventing Drowning

1. Supervise young children when around any source of water, including the bathtub.
2. Keep the bathroom door closed, and locked as necessary, to prevent young children from entering.
3. If there's a pool at your home, make sure it's inaccessible to children without supervision, even if your children are good swimmers.
4. You can enclose the pool with a locked fence. ALWAYS supervise your children when swimming.
5. Enroll your children in swimming classes when they are young. Even after they've had classes, though, always supervise them when in the pool.

Other Summer Safety Tips

1. Keep yourself and your child hydrated at all times.
2. Be mindful of heat advisories and stay inside as necessary. Limit outside playtime when there is a heat advisory.

Remember: The lack of adequate supervision is the primary cause of death for children in the United States.

Protect your home, protect your children!