

# INFANT & CHILD SAFETY ISSUES

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- Infants/ small children should not be left alone in the home or car at any time.
- Monitor small children closely when they are near an infant.
- Secure infants in high chairs, walkers, other baby furniture with attached restraints. Do not let baby use walkers near stairs.
- Keep portable playpen sides up at all times while in use. Do not use accordion style gates.
- Place safety gates on the top and bottom of staircases and elevated areas such as porches or fire escapes.
- Place guardrails on upstairs windows and attach locks that limit window opening.
- Store small objects out of the reach of infants and children.
- Inspect toys and household items for small removable parts or long strings.
- Avoid toy chests with heavy lids. Remove lids if possible.
- Place crib away from other furniture or windows.
- Keep crib side rails raised to full height and lower the mattress height as your child grows.
- Make sure the baby's crib is designed to meet federal regulations and has a mattress that fits snugly against all four sides of the crib.
- Keep hanging crib toys and mobiles out of child's reach.
- Store batteries safely and discard properly so that child does not have access.
- Keep knives, power tools, and firearms (unloaded) stored safely or placed in a locked cabinet.
- Keep electrical cords out of the reach of children and use socket covers for electrical outlets.
- Always secure child in car seat when traveling by car.
- Monitor and restrain pets properly. Pets should also be immunized for rabies.

## *Feeding Safety*

- When feeding, hold your infant with head elevated.
- Do not lay infant flat on his back or stomach during or immediately after feeding.
- Do not use soft pillows to prop your infant in position.
- Do not prop your infant's bottle because this may cause the infant to choke.
- Burp infant frequently.
- Serve child food in bite sizes appropriate for size.

## *Poison Control/Emergency Safety*

- Keep a supply of *Syrup of Ipecac* in the home (e.g., 2 doses per child).
- Have at least one member of the household trained in basic life support (CPR), including first aid for choking.
- Keep emergency phone numbers (e.g. Poison Control, Pediatrician, Police, Fire, and Nearest Relative) and the address of your home and the nearest cross street handy and by the telephone for easy access.

### ***Kitchen/Bathroom Safety***

- Keep bathroom doors closed and toilet seats down.
- Secure kitchen/bath cabinets and drawers with safety locks.
- Keep oven doors, trunks, dishwashers, refrigerators and front loading clothes washers and dryers closed at all times.
- Firmly turn faucets off.
- Store plastic bags away from a young child's reach. Tie large plastic garment bags and
- discard.
- Store cleaning fluids and supplies out of the reach of infants and children.
- Secure doors/lids on unused appliances such as refrigerators with locks or have doors removed.

### ***Outdoor Safety***

- Place cement birdbaths and/or yard decorations where young children cannot tip them over.
- Keep clotheslines above head level.
- Keep pails, buckets and wading pools empty when not in use.
- Store electric garage openers out of child's reach and adjust door opener to raise the door if closing door strikes an object.
- Have a fence with locked gate around pool and store proper safety equipment at poolside.
- Keep swings, slides and outdoor play equipment in safe condition.
- Keep yard clear of broken glass, nail-studded boards and other litter.