



SAFE COMMUNITY COALITION

Home Safety

Falls

- Be sure sharp edges of furniture are cushioned with corner guards or other material.
- If a child is alone in a room, be sure to lock windows or install window guards.
- Sturdy handrails should be securely fastened on at least one (preferably both) side of the stairway.
- For babies and young children, install safety gates (nonaccordion) at top and bottom of stairway (wall-mounted only at top of stairs).
- Keep stairs, hallways, passageways and exits well lit and clear of objects.
- Be sure there are light switches located at the top and bottom of stairs or keep a flashlight handy at the nonswitch end.
- Be sure rugs, runners and mats have slip-resistant backing. Also equip bathtubs and showers with nonskid mats, abrasive strips or nonslippery surfaces.
- Install night-lights in bathrooms and consider replacing regular light switches with glow switches.

Drowning

- Supervise children in or near water (bathtub, swimming pool, wading pool, pond, lake). Do not leave them alone even “for a minute.”

- Keep pools and spas secured with fencing and locked gates.
- Keep toilet lid closed, keep aquariums covered and avoid leaving buckets of water unattended.
- Empty water in wading pool when not in use.
- Never leave baby alone in bath seat.

Choking

- Keep curtain cords and other window coverings out of child’s reach. Cut loop ends.
- Keep small items such as safety pins, coins and buttons out of reach of small children.

Kitchen safety

- Store knives and other sharp utensils in drawers or cabinets secured with safety latches.
- Install guards on stove knobs.
- Keep round, hard foods like grapes, popcorn, hard candies, nuts and raisins away from children ages four and under.

For information on poisoning, burns and fires in the kitchen, refer to *Poisoning Prevention*, *Burn Safety* and *Fire Safety* sections.

Written by: Madison Department of Public Health, Dane County Division of Public Health, Madison Area SAFE KIDS Coalition, St. Marys Hospital Medical Center, Babysafe, Inc.

For more information, contact the Safe Community Coalition at (608) 256-6713, or email scc@safecommunitycoalition.org.