

## **Home Safety Checklist for Families and Caregivers of Young Children**

Keeping your home “sweet home” for your child means checking to ensure it’s a “home SAFE home”!. Most serious injuries among young children occur at home. The good news is that these tragedies can be avoided. Below is a home safety checklist for parents of young children:

### **Preventing 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 (wallmounted 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.

### **Preventing 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.

### **Preventing 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.
- Keep round, hard foods like grapes, popcorn, hard candies, nuts and raisins away from children ages four and under.

### **Preventing Poisoning**

- Choose safe household products and buy products with safety closures, but don’t depend on them.
- Read the label. Pay attention to warnings. Follow directions on proper use and storage.
- Put medicines away right after use and keep them out of sight and out of reach.
- Store cleaning products and chemicals in the home and garage out of reach.

- **Throw away unfinished alcoholic drinks.**
- **Keep Ipecac syrup with your medicines. Buy it at a pharmacy, read the instructions and use only if advised by the Poison Control Center or a doctor.**
- **When in doubt, check it out! If you suspect a poisoning, call the Poison Control Center right away! The phone number is 1-800-815-8855. Don't wait for symptoms to appear.**

**Written by: Public Health of Madison and Dane County, Madison Area SAFE KIDS Coalition, St. Marys Hospital Medical Center, Babysafe, Inc and UW Poison Control.**