



International Association for Child Safety

www.iafcs.org

Nursery Safety Tips

- Keep all furniture away from windows.** This insures that cribs are away from window coverings and helps prevent toddlers from climbing near windows.
- Remove cords from children's bedrooms and playrooms, including any window treatments with cords.** Any cord longer than 7" can become a strangulation hazard.
- Cordless window treatments are best.** If cords are present, cleats and tie-down devices should be used to make the window covering safer but families should understand that these devices may not prevent strangulation in the cords.
- Install window guards or window stops on windows.** A window stop prevents the window from opening more than a few inches (but has a release mechanism for emergency exit). Even if windows are above a child's normal reach, many children move items to climb on in order to reach the window.
- Insure there are no electrical cords near the crib.** This includes baby monitor electrical cords which are a strangulation risk. Please do not place any video monitors in the crib, on the crib, above the crib or near the crib (including wall-mounted models).
- Use sliding outlet covers.** Small removable outlet caps could be removed by toddlers and often are not replaced when the outlet is used.
- Use "box covers" to hide plugs.** If an electrical item is plugged in all the time, use a "box cover" type of outlet cover to hide the plug (small and large sizes are available).
- Extension cords should not be used in the nursery or throughout the house.** Use surge protectors with a safety cover.
- Avoid free-standing lamps.** Overhead lighting is best since table lamps or free-standing lamps can be pulled over by toddlers.
- Nightlights are best out of the reach of your baby.** Night lights could be a hazard and some models allow easy access to the light bulb.
- Use sleep sacks or sleepers instead of blankets in the crib.** Hand-knitted blankets could unravel, exposing a long dangerous string.
- Nothing in the crib is best (except your baby)!** Because of the risk of suffocation, please do not use bumper pads, pillows, stuffed animals and blankets in a crib. Toys that are installed on the crib slats should be secured on the wall side (the manufacturer's instructions should be checked). Avoid wall hangings above the crib.

- Check to make sure your crib has not been recalled.** In recent years, numerous cribs have been recalled, mainly for hazards associated with the drop-side mechanisms. Crib standards have been improved. Visit www.cpsc.gov to check for recalls and [cribs safety information](#). Infants should sleep in cribs and not on adult beds or couches.
- Consider the use of finger pinch guards on the doors to prevent serious injuries to fingers.**
- Replace door stops with one piece safety door stops.** The small rubber caps on most doors stops are a choking hazard.
- Install carbon monoxide and smoke detectors inside or just outside of every bedroom.** The batteries must be changed regularly and detectors replaced at least every 10 years (check the manufacturer's instructions because some may recommend replacement sooner than 10 years).
- Have furniture and televisions tethered to the wall to reduce the chance of tip-over.** Even heavy pieces of furniture can become unstable if the doors or drawers are opened and pulled or climbed on. Tethering devices must be designed to support the weight of the unit and must be securely fastened with screws into wall studs.
- Furniture should not be placed close to a crib.** An adjacent dresser could provide a foothold for climbing (if a dresser is directly against the crib) or it could cause entrapment if a child climbs out of the crib (the child could become entrapped between the crib and a dresser).
- Toy chests should have lid supports.** This includes built-in chests. New toy chests may have lid supports. Old chests should not lock automatically (insure lid and lock can be opened from inside of chest).
- Gliders could be a risk.** A glider with exposed slats may give children access to moving parts and be a finger pinch risk.
- Avoid step stools and little play chairs.** Children often use them to gain access to items that are stored up high or windows. Some of them are not stable and designed for older children.
- Secure Changing Tables.** Never leave a child unattended on a changing table (at any age). Insure that your baby can't reach wall hangings, cords or diaper supplies/ointments.
- Store medicines and poisons up high and in locked containers.** Lock boxes are another product that you could consider.

For more tips or to find a child safety professional in your area, visit www.iafcs.org.

