

# Child Safety Checklist for Grandparents

Give your home a room-by-room “grandchild-proofing” inspection before the next visit from those youngest family members.



## All Areas of the Home

- Try to “think like a child.” What can little ones reach? What could fit in a baby’s mouth? To guard against choking hazards, remove any small objects within the child’s reach. Don’t forget wastebaskets.
- All electrical outlets and plugs should have approved safety covers.
- Check for any peeling paint that could be ingested.
- Place protective padding on sharp edges of furniture.
- The cord pulls of blinds and curtains are a strangulation hazard; trim them, or secure them high out of reach.
- Have a first aid kit on hand, and know the telephone number of poison control, police and fire departments.

## Stairways

- Place a safety gate at top and bottom of stairs.
- If necessary, block off side rails and banisters with mesh or other protective covering.

## Kitchen

- Place childproof safety latches and locks on drawers, cabinets, dishwasher, stove.
- Secure all sharp objects in drawers.
- Place all cleaning supplies and other hazardous substances out of reach.
- Keep dishwasher closed and latched.
- While cooking, never leave children unsupervised.
- Use back burners first, and turn pot handles towards rear of stove.
- Keep refrigerator magnets out of reach.

## Bathroom

- Never leave a small child unattended in the bathtub, even for a moment.

- Install a scald guard in the tub.
- Install safety latches on toilet, cabinets, medicine chest.
- Keep soap out of reach.
- Make sure no electrical appliances are near sink, tub or toilet.
- Keep all medications out of reach of children, in childproof containers.

## Bedrooms

- Keep dry cleaning bags and other plastic bags out of reach.
- Lock windows, or install window guards.
- Be sure baby's crib is safety-approved, and position it away from window coverings and heaters.

## Exercise Room

- Keep area locked off if possible.
- Keep weights out of reach.
- Remember that treadmills, stationary bikes, etc., have moving parts that can cause serious injury.

## Garage

- Make garage off-limits, if possible.
- Keep power tools, chemicals and cleaners locked away.
- Automatic garage door should automatically reverse when making contact with an object, so that a child can't become trapped.

## Back Yard

- Hot tubs and pools should have safety barriers.
- Never leave a child alone near pool or hot tub, even for a moment.
- Decks should be protected with mesh netting or acrylic.
- Don't let child near barbecue grill.



Having small visitors is a lot more fun when you don't have to follow them around with a constant chorus of "No, no, no." Take these steps and enjoy your grandchildren while keeping them safe. And remember: no gadgets or modifications can take the place of close supervision of children.