A Parent's Guide to

Kidsafe Homes

Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia
Western Australia



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

www.kidsafewa.com.au

The information contained in this booklet is derived from child injury data and consultation with Kidsafe professional advisers.

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Why make your home Kidsafe?

At home we feel comfortable and safe, however sometimes our homes may not be safe enough for children.

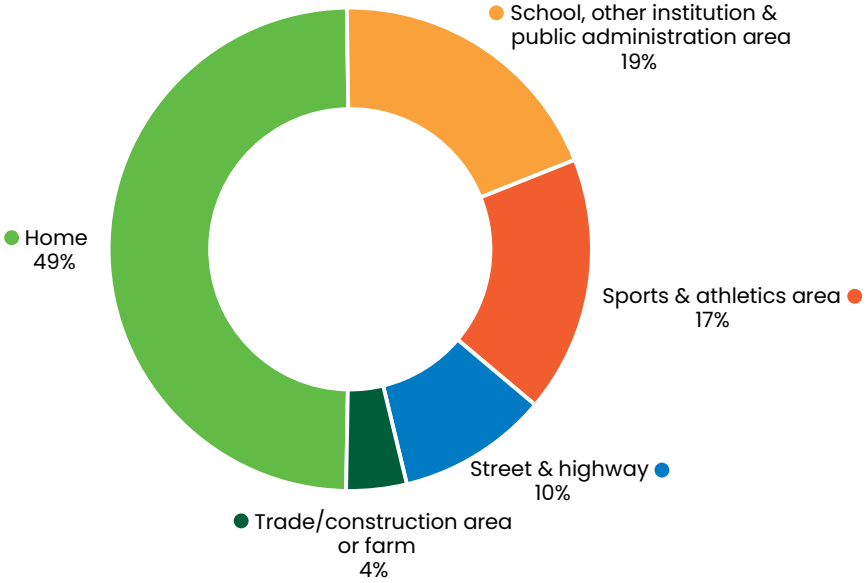
Injuries are the biggest health problem our children face.

Each year about **150** Australian children (aged 0-14 years) die[1] and **68,000 hospitalised**[2] as a result of unintentional injuries – the kind often referred to as 'accidents'. Many of these can be prevented.

It is our youngest children who are most at risk. About one third of the children aged between zero and 14 years old, presenting to a hospital with an injury, are younger than five years old[2]. The most common place for any injury to occur is the home[2]. When the location is known, almost half of these injuries happen at home (see Figure One).[2]

Figure One: Injury Location

Children under 15 years.



The good news is that you can help protect children from injury. There are some simple steps you can take to make your home a safer place for children

1. AIHW (2018). Deaths in Australia. Retrieved from https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/life-expectancy-death/deaths/data.
2. Mitchell R, Curtis K, Foster K. A 10-year review of the characteristics and health outcomes of injury-related hospitalisations of children in Australia. Day of Difference Foundation. University of Sydney. 5th May 2017.

Steps to prevent injuries

Injuries don't just happen out of the blue, they are caused by hazards.
A hazard can be anything that has the potential to cause an injury.

How do you make your home Kidsafe?

1. **Spot the hazards**
   The first step in preventing accidents is to be able to spot the hazards. Kidsafe recommends getting down on your hands and knees and looking at your house from a child's perspective.

   This booklet will help you to identify the hazards in your home.

2. **Decide how to deal with the hazard**
   This step depends on the hazard you are treating. You will have to make a decision about what is the best way to separate the hazard from the children. Each section of this booklet has hints about different ways of dealing with hazards to help you decide what to do.

   - Removing the hazard.
   - Guarding against the hazard, if you are unable to remove it
   - Supervising your child closely around hazards and keeping them within arm's reach.

   Ensure you combine any barriers you put in place with appropriate **supervision** and **education**

3. **Make the Change**
   Act immediately - children are not protected until they are separated from the hazard. You will feel more relaxed when the children are safe and the hazards have been isolated or removed.



Falls

Falls are the most common cause of injuries to children, resulting mainly in fractures, head injuries and sprains and strains[3].

Safety steps to prevent falls:

Nursery equipment

- Always use the harness provided in strollers and high chairs.
- Purchase equipment that has the Australian Standards tick of approval.
- Have everything you need to use close by when changing baby. Always use the safety strap if available and keep one hand on baby to prevent baby from rolling off the change table or raised surface.
- Kidsafe does not recommend the use of baby walkers. These are especially dangerous around hazards such as fire places and stairs.

Bunkbeds

- Make sure bunk beds have guard rails, a fixed ladder and the Australian Standards tick of approval.
- Bunk beds are not suitable for children under nine.
- Use single beds, trundle beds or a mattress on the floor.



Falls

Safety steps to prevent falls

Slips and trips

- Use corner protectors on benches, coffee tables and other sharp cornered furniture.
- Make sure floor coverings are in good condition.
- Use rug grips to avoid slipping and trip hazards.
- Avoid slippery, highly polished floors.
- Install safety glass or security film over glass if this is not already in place in high risk areas like doors and low windows. Falls and trips can be potentially serious near glass.

Steps and stairs

- Use gates or barriers at the top and bottom of stairs to keep young children from falling.
- Ensure steps and stairs are well lit.
- Use night lights or light switches that children can reach.



Windows

- Install a secure window guard or stainless steel mesh over the window.
- Keep objects and furniture that children can use to stand or climb on away from windows.
- Be aware of hazardous windows when visiting other homes and closely supervise your child.

Balconies

- Eliminate gaps that can be used as a foothold to climb or that a child can fit through.
- Ensure windows and doors that open to the balcony are locked when the balcony is not in use.
- Keep objects and furniture that children can use to stand or climb on away from balconies.

3. AIHW. (2024). Injuries in children and adolescents 2021–22. Retrieved from https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/injury/injuries-in-children-and-adolescents-2021-22

Drowning

In Australia in 2022-23, 23 children aged 0-14 drowned with 70% of those under the age of 5. The leading location for drowning in this age group was bathtub/spa bath and swimming pools[4].

If you have a swimming pool or inflatable pool that holds more than 30 cm of water; you need a barrier that isolates the pool from the house and the rest of the backyard.

The law across most states and territories requires four sided fencing which is well maintained and has a self-closing, self-latching gate. Barriers should also meet Australian Standards. For further information on what is required contact your local council or local government authority.

Safety steps to prevent drowning:

- Always supervise children when they are in or near water and stay within arm's reach. Remember, floatation devices are not lifesaving devices.
- Familiarise children with water and teach them to swim.
- Learn resuscitation or take a refresher course. Affix a resuscitation chart in the pool area.
- Never leave items against the fence which children can use to climb up or prop gates open.
- Regularly check and maintain pool fences and self-closing, self-latching gates to pools.
- Check that children cannot access pools, spas, ponds or dams.



4 Royal Life Saving Society – Australia (2023) Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2023, Sydney Australia.

Drowning

Indoors

- Never leave children alone in the bath. ALWAYS take babies and young children with you if you must leave the room.
- Ensure nappy buckets have a tight fitting lid and are stored out of reach.
- Ensure indoor spas have a lockable door and are emptied immediately after use.

Outdoors

- Ensure outdoor spas, portable and inflatable pools are inaccessible to children. Check your local laws for more information.
- Empty paddling and inflatable pools immediately after use and store upright.
- Cover post holes or trenches during building.
- Check your yard and empty any water that collects in containers, especially after heavy rains.
- Cover ponds with a fixed grill.



Poisoning

Every year, hundreds of children need medical treatment for poisoning from products commonly found around the home.

Poisons Information Centres (13 11 26) around Australia deal with hundreds of calls each day. In 2022, over one-third of calls to the WA Poisons Information Centre were for children under the age of five[5].

Safety steps to prevent poisoning:

- Store poisons in a locked cupboard preferably 1.5m above the ground.
- Use child-resistant locks on cupboards and cabinets. These can be installed quite simply and won't interfere with normal use of the cupboards.
- Store medicines and potentially poisonous products in a lockable container and place out of the reach of children, if you cannot install locks on cupboards.
- Check all household cleaning products to see if they are potentially poisonous.
- Get rid of unnecessary medicines or products that are not used regularly.
- Dispose of expired or unwanted medications. Contact your local pharmacy for advice.
- Store medicines, cleaners and chemicals in their original containers that are clearly labelled.
- Return all poisons to their safe storage area immediately after you use or buy them. If you are using household products when the doorbell or phone rings take the product with you.
- Never refer to medicines or vitamins as "lollies".



5. Government of Western Australia (2023) Western Australian Poisons Information Centre: Annual Report 2022. Retrieved from: www.scgh.health.wa.gov.au/~/media/HSPs/NMHS/Hospitals/SCGH/Documents/Services/Poisons/WA-Poisons-Information-Centre-Annual-Report-2022.pdf

Poisoning

Top Tip: First Aid for Poisoning

If your child is not breathing, becomes limp or unconscious, call 000

- If you think a child may have swallowed something poisonous, take the container and child with you to the phone and call the Poisons Information Centre: **13 11 26.**
- Help is available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day Australia wide. They will tell you what to do.

Note: Child resistant is NOT child proof - many children can open child resistant containers.

Common potentially poisonous items include:

Medications (over the counter and prescription), cleaning products, dishwasher powder, hand sanitiser, essential oils, fertilisers, pesticides, bleaches, alcohol, cigarettes, e-cigarette devices and liquids containing nicotine, cosmetics and many more common household products.



Burns and scalds

Young children are at risk of burns and scald injuries, with majority of these injuries occurring within the home[3]. Young children can be scalded very quickly and this often happens when an adult is present, so it is important to be alert.

Hot water and hot drinks are often the cause of these injuries, so remember "Hot Water Burns Like Fire".

Safety steps to prevent burns and scalds:

Kitchen

- Make sure your microwave oven is out of children's reach. Turn it off at the power point if it is in a low position.
- Keep hot food and liquids out of reach of children until cool enough for them to eat.
- Only boil enough water for your tea or coffee and empty the rest. Hot water scalds for up to 30 minutes after it has boiled.
- Have a fire extinguisher and a fire blanket in the kitchen, or use a large pan lid to help smother any small fires.
- Use back elements on the stove first, and turn handles to the back.
- Use stove guards and cordless kettles to help prevent children pulling hot liquids down onto themselves.
- Make sure free standing stoves are firmly attached to the floor or wall.

Bathroom

- Control your bathroom hot water delivery temperature to a maximum 50°C. Ask your plumber for advice.
- Always supervise children in the bath to make sure they don't turn on the hot water tap. Child resistant tap covers are useful to prevent this.
- Turn the cold water on first and off last, adding the hot water in between to bring it up to the required temperature when running a bath. This also helps to cool the tap or spout. Put the child in last. 38°C is the recommended temperature for bathing young children.

Dining

- Use place mats instead of tablecloths.
- Keep hot drinks out of reach of young children. Never drink these with a child on your lap.

Burns and scalds

Safety steps to prevent burns and scalds:

General

- Install a guard around fires and heaters, and ensure it is fixed to the wall.
- Keep hot irons away from children. Put them up high to cool after use.
- Keep matches and cigarette lighters out of reach of young children.
- Don't use petrol or any other accelerant to start fires or barbecues.
- Install smoke alarms, test them regularly & change the battery at least once a year. Check with your local fire authority for recommendations on placement.
- Always watch children near barbecues and open fires.
- Develop a home fire escape plan with your family. Practice this plan to ensure all family members know what to do and where to go.
- Teach children to "Stop, Drop, Cover and Roll" if their clothes catch fire and "Get down Low and Go, Go, Go!" in case of a house fire.

Bedroom

- Dress children in low fire risk clothing that is close fitting and made of less flammable material. Be aware that cotton is highly flammable.
- Check nightwear for low fire risk labels.
- Make sure your children's nightwear complies with Australian Standards and is labelled 'low fire risk'.

Top Tip: First Aid for Burns

If your child suffers a burn or scald:

- **REMOVE** any clothing, nappies, jewellery, unless stuck to skin
- **COOL** the burn immediately under cool running water for at least 20 minutes
- **SEEK** medical attention if the burn is on the face, hands, lap or feet, is bigger than a 20-cent piece or is blistered. Keep the child warm with a clean blanket.

Never use ice, oil, butter, soy sauce or ointments. These can damage the skin further.

Choking and suffocation

While babies are at the stage of putting everything in their mouths, all small objects need to be kept out of reach. Foods like peanuts, bones, raw carrot and apple can cause choking in young children. Coins, magnets and button batteries are particular problems.

Safety steps to prevent choking and suffocation:

Feeding

- Ensure children always sit down quietly to eat.
- Avoid giving hard chewy foods and small solid pieces of food to young children.
- Grate, mash or chop these foods for children.
- Remove bones from young children's food.
- Never force a distressed child to eat.

Suffocation

- Keep plastic bags and packaging out of reach of children.
- Secure blind and curtain cords at least 1600mm above the floor

Toys

- Follow age recommendations on toy labels.
- Check all toys regularly for wear and parts which could come loose.
- Check for loose polystyrene beads in bean bags which can be inhaled.
- Keep items containing button batteries and magnets out of reach of children. Button batteries can be found in products such as remote controls, calculators and musical greeting cards.

Top Tip: First Aid for Burns

Choking infant (under 1 years old)[6]

- Immediately call 000 for ambulance.
- Follow DRSABCD St John Action Plan.

Choking child (over 1 years old) [6]

- Follow DRSABCD St John Action Plan.
- Encourage the casualty to relax, breathe deeply and encourage coughing to remove object and observe for any deterioration.
- If coughing is unsuccessful in removing the object call 000 for an ambulance.

6. St John Ambulance Australia 2018. Choking First Aid Fact Sheets. Received from: https://stjohn.org.au/first-aid-facts.



Electrocution

Electricity makes our lives easier, but it is also dangerous. On average, one Australian child under the age of 14 years dies as a result of electrocution each year[7].

Safety steps to prevent electrocution:

- Use electrical safety switches. These turn the power off when there is a fault before people are injured. They are installed by an electrician.
- Use wall mounted heaters in the bathroom, placed up high.
- Use plug-in covers to stop children poking things into the power points.
- Don't use electric blankets with children younger than two, or those still bed-wetting.
- Unplug electrical appliances when not in use and put them out of reach and out of sight. This is essential with hair-dryers and shavers.
- Remember that electricity, water and children are a dangerous mix.



7 AIHW: Tovell A, McKenna K & Harrison JE 2018. Electrical injuries: hospitalisations and deaths, 2014–15 and 2015–16. Injury research and statistics series no. 117. Cat. no. INJCAT 197. Canberra: AIHW.

Finger jams

Finger jam injuries are a leading cause of child injury hospitalisation and often occur when fingers are crushed in the hinge side of doors when they are closed or slammed shut[3].

Safety steps to prevent finger jams:

- Be aware of the increased risk of slamming doors when both the front and back doors are open.
- Let older children know how easily little children are injured this way.
- Ask them to check the door is clear before they close it.
- Use slow, self-closing springs on front and back doors.
- Know where children are to avoid closing doors on their fingers.
- Use special strips to guard the hinge side of doors. These are very useful for doors which you need to close, such as bathroom and bedroom doors.
- Use chocks, wedges or catches to keep internal doors from slamming shut.
- Remember that nursery furniture and strollers can also trap little fingers.



Toys

Toys are fun, and important for children's development. It is important to note that poorly made or inappropriate toys can cause injuries.

Safety steps to prevent toy injuries:

- Select age-appropriate toys that comply with the Australian Standard.
- Choose toys that are sturdy, have no sharp edges, brittle plastic, or parts which could snap off or be pulled off.
- String or elastic on toys should be less than 300mm in length.
- Create a safe play area where toys can be used safely around your home, away from people traffic inside and vehicles outside.
- Keep toys belonging to older kids away from young children. They may trap small fingers or cause choking.
- Store toys for play at a low level so the children can reach them easily without having to climb.
- Toys labelled "not suitable for children under three" means there are small parts which may be a choking hazard.
- Check the condition of toys as you tidy up.
- Throw out any you think are no longer safe.
- Ensure children only use scissors while seated and under supervision.
- Use a toy box without a hinged lid or with a slow closer to prevent crushed fingers.
- Drill air holes in large toy boxes in case children hide in them.



Dog bites

Children under five years of age are at greatest risk of dog bites[9]. It is common for young children to be bitten while doing child-like inquisitive things, for example playing with the dog's food or chasing the dog.

Safety steps to prevent dog bites:

- Remember any dog can and may bite.
- Keep babies and young children away from your dog, especially at feeding times.
- Ask friends and family to keep their dogs away from the children.
- Stay within reach if a dog is near children.
- Train your dog to obey commands such as "come", "sit" and "stay" from all family members.
- Buy the right dog for your family.
- Ask the RSPCA or a vet about the dog best suited to your needs.



9. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2017. Dog-related injuries fact sheet. Cat. No. INJCAT 186. Canberra: AIHW.

Outside the home

The home backyard is a place for everyone, children and adults. The area around the house may include a garage, sheds, a swimming pool, play equipment and toys, garden tools and pets. The most common place for childhood injury is in and around the home.

Safety steps to prevent injuries in the outdoors:

- Have a safe play area for children separated from hazards like cars, driveways and pools.
- Make sure play equipment is stable, has no sharp edges, splinters or pieces that can come loose.
- Play equipment should be placed away from paths and solid garden edgings.
- Cut off sharp branches that hang at the child and adult eye level.
- Remove tripping hazards.
- Check that the plants in your garden are not poisonous. Ask your local nursery for advice.
- Look for trampolines made to AS4989. Allow only one child at a time, always use the safety pads provided.
- Check that barbecues are stable. If movable, put these away when not in use.
- Keep garages and sheds locked. Store tools, chemicals, petrol, climbing hazards, and other fuels here.
- Insist that children wear hats, shoes and sunscreen when outside and check the temperature of play equipment before playing.



Outside the home

Driveway:

- Never leave motors of any kind switched on. Turn off and lock a car or vehicle; take the key out of the ignition; and always know where your children are around cars.
- Don't let your children use the driveway as a play area; create safe play areas for your children by fencing off the driveway from play areas.
- Make access to the driveway from the house difficult for young children, by using security doors, fencing or gates.
- Hold your child's hand or hold them close to keep them safe. Always supervise your children and do not let them play around cars.



On the farm

Children on farms face special risks, including injury from motorcycles, quad bikes and animals. Between 2001 and 2019, there were 222 child fatalities on Australian farms[10]. Older children are at risk too, especially when they help with farm work.

If you live on a farm, you will need to think about the particular hazards on your property, as these vary with the type of farming you do.

Safety steps to prevent injuries on farms:

- Provide a safe, secure supervised play area with self-closing, self-latching gates away from farming activities, dams and livestock.
- Keep young children well away from tractors, farm machinery and livestock.
- Know where children are. Dress them in bright colours so they are easy to see.
- Store tools, chemicals and all equipment including heavy tyres in locked sheds and workshops.
- Remove old machinery and woodpiles from where children play.
- Make silos inaccessible by removing the lower steps.
- Securely store guns, bolts and ammunition as specified by law at all times.
- Do not allow children under 16 years of age to ride on quad bikes (four wheeled motorbikes). Children do not have the ability and strength to ride these motorbikes.
- Provide children with age appropriate bikes and the required safety gear. Teach children how to operate them safely and safe places to ride.
- Remove all keys from farm vehicles and machinery when not in use.
- Ensure children wear helmets and other protective equipment when riding horses and bicycles.
- Let workers know when children are on the farm. Ensure everyone checks around machinery before starting up and moving off.



10 Peachey, KL, Lower, T, Rolfe, M. Protecting the future: Fatal incidents on Australian farms involving children (2001-2019). Aust J Rural Health. 2020; 28(4): 385-393. Available from https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ajr.12650

A word about older children

We often expect older children to act as child minders for us. Certainly caring for a younger child is something most older children like to do, but we need to remember that they are still children themselves and not little adults. This applies to other chores we might ask them to do too.

Safety tips with older children:

- Remember, they still need to be supervised by an adult.
- Be realistic about what a twelve year old can safely do. Don't expect them to be responsible in dangerous situations, like bathing the baby or using a lawn mower.
- Give older children training in safety. Teach them about the dangers around the home and show them how to deal with these correctly.
- Be realistic about what work young teenagers can safely do. Train them carefully and supervise their work. Make sure they wear protective clothing, eye and ear protection where needed.
- Insist that children always use safety gear like helmets for bikes, horse riding, in-line skating and skateboard riding. In-line skate and skateboard riders need wrist guards, elbow and knee pads.
- Ask your child's coach about their safety policies. For older children, injuries often happen during sport.
- Praise sensible behaviour.



Visiting

Visiting friends and family should be a time for relaxation and fun for everyone.

Unfortunately their homes may not be as Kidsafe as your own home environment. If no children live in these homes, it's likely that there will be many hazards within easy reach of your child.

Safety tips to prevent injuries when visiting:

- Watch children carefully when visiting.
- Check for overhead hazards, e.g.. ceiling fans. Children have been injured by being lifted into the path of ceiling fan blades.
- Check whether medicines are within reach in bedrooms or bathrooms.
- Ask about any drowning hazards. Many children have drowned at friends' homes because their parents didn't know there was a pool, spa, pond or dam on the property.
- Ask if there is a place children can play that is separate from a dog.
- Find a spot up high where their handbags can be kept when others visit. Handbags can be a 'magnet' for young children and often contain hazards such as medicines or lighters.



What if I rent?

Safety tips to make your home as safe as possible:

- Install as many movable safety products like door barriers as you can.
- Ask the landlord for permission to have a few important changes, like child resistant catches on kitchen and laundry cupboards.
- Check that electrical safety switches and smoke alarms have been installed and that they work properly. They are required by law.
- Take the Home Safety Checklist along to help you check out the property. Ask in advance what child safety changes the landlord is prepared to make.



What else can I do?

Safety tips to make your home as safe as possible:

- Talk to your friends and family about child injury prevention.
- Visit or telephone the Kidsafe centre in your state/territory or access the Kidsafe website on www.kidsafe.com.au.
- Give safety products as gifts to friends and relatives.
- Make a list of emergency contact numbers and place it in a prominent spot or near your phone.
- Learn first aid.
- For further information on any of the topics covered in this booklet or for additional publications contact your local Kidsafe office (see page 27).



Home safety checklist

Consider making changes to items that received a NO response for a safer home! If you are still unsure, crawl around your home on your hands and knees to view everything as your child would!

Home Environment	Yes	No
Is there an electrical safety switch to prevent electric shock?	☐	☐
Is the hot water delivery temperature set at a maximum of 50 degrees?	☐	☐
Do you have working smoke alarms installed in the house?	☐	☐
Are power point covers fitted in unused power points?	☐	☐
Have you removed any potentially poisonous house plants?	☐	☐
Are all electrical appliances, plugs and cords in good condition?	☐	☐
Have long cords been bound together and/or hidden out of children's reach?	☐	☐
Are heaters or fires guarded, and are candles used with caution and never left unattended?	☐	☐
Are there barriers or gates installed on steps and stairs to prevent falls?	☐	☐
Are railings free of footholds that children could climb?	☐	☐
Is all top-heavy or unstable furniture (e.g. bookcases, chests of drawers and televisions) secured to the wall to prevent them from tipping?	☐	☐
Are blind and curtain cords secured out of children's reach?	☐	☐
Is all furniture free of sharp corners?	☐	☐
Are the gutters and the ground around the house clear of any material that could burn?	☐	☐
Is your swimming pool or spa full enclosed by a safety barrier with a self-closing, self latching gate?	☐	☐

Home safety checklist

Bathroom	Yes	No
Are there non-slip mats or hand rails in the bath?	☐	☐
Are sharp objects (e.g. razors), kept in a locked cupboard or out of reach of children?	☐	☐
Are hairdryers, straighteners and electric razors unplugged and away when not in use?	☐	☐
Are medicines kept in a locked cupboard out of reach of children?	☐	☐
Is there a lock on the toilet and bathroom door?	☐	☐
Is the bath water temperature always tested before use?	☐	☐
Are the shampoos, soaps and cosmetics out of reach of children?	☐	☐
Is the floor kept dry to reduce the risk of falls?	☐	☐

Laundry	Yes	No
Are cleaners, bleaches and detergents stored out of reach in a child resistant cupboard?	☐	☐
Do buckets soaking clothes have a lid on them and kept out of reach of children?	☐	☐
Are sinks and washing machines empty when not in use?	☐	☐
Are appliances with lids or doors, i.e. washing machines or dryers kept closed when not in use?	☐	☐
Is the lint filter of your dryer cleaned regularly to prevent fires?	☐	☐

Child's bedroom	Yes	No
Is the cot positioned away from the window?	☐	☐
Are blind or curtain cords secured out of reach away from the cot?	☐	☐
Are the cot rails 50-95mm apart and mattress firm fitting?	☐	☐
Is everything you need close to the changing table?	☐	☐
Are the toys kept where children can reach them without climbing?	☐	☐
Is all furniture free of sharp corners?	☐	☐
Are children's toys suitable for their age?	☐	☐
Are electrical appliances and cords out of reach of young children?	☐	☐

Home safety checklist

Kitchen	Yes	No
Do your electrical appliances have short cords that do not dangle over the bench?	☐	☐
Are electrical appliances (e.g. kettles, toasters and microwaves) positioned out of children's reach?	☐	☐
Are back hot plates used first and pot handles always turned to the back of the stove?	☐	☐
Are plastic bags out of reach or tied in the middle?	☐	☐
Are there latches on cupboard doors where hazardous items are stored?	☐	☐
Is there a fire blanket and fire extinguisher ready to use in the event of a fire?	☐	☐
Is there a barrier across the doorway to prevent children from accessing the kitchen?	☐	☐
Are lighters, matches, knives and other dangerous objects stored out of children's reach?	☐	☐
Are the toys kept where children can reach them without climbing?	☐	☐
Is all furniture free of sharp corners?	☐	☐
Are children's toys suitable for their age?	☐	☐

Living areas	Yes	No
Are sharp edges on tables and furniture covered?	☐	☐
Are blind and curtain cords out of reach?	☐	☐
Are glass doors protected by safety film or made of safety glass?	☐	☐
Is alcohol stored in a child resistant cupboard?	☐	☐
Are rugs and mats secured (e.g. non-slip backing) to prevent falls?	☐	☐
Is the high chair stable and has a harness?	☐	☐
Are chairs and tables stable?	☐	☐
Are cigarettes, ashtrays, matches and lighters out of reach?	☐	☐
Are non-slip place mats used instead of tablecloths?	☐	☐
Are hot drinks placed well out of reach of children?	☐	☐
Are heaters kept away from curtains, furniture or other flammable material?	☐	☐
Do children wear clothing that is made of low fire risk material or designed to reduce fire risk?	☐	☐

Home safety checklist

Garden shed/outdoors	Yes	No
Are pesticides, paints, chemicals and other poisons stored in tightly covered, labeled, original containers out of reach of children?	☐	☐
Are all garden tools locked away?	☐	☐
Is the garden free of poisonous plants?	☐	☐
Can the shed or garage be locked?	☐	☐
Is the play area separated from the driveway?	☐	☐
Is the play equipment stable and in good condition and has regular maintenance checks?	☐	☐
Are there soft surfaces below play equipment to cushion any falls?	☐	☐
Are pathways clear to prevent tripping?	☐	☐
Are branches pruned above eye level to avoid eye injury?	☐	☐
Are garden statues and birdbaths cemented in to prevent a crushing hazard?	☐	☐
Are electrical equipment, power points and light switches protected from the weather?	☐	☐
Are all flammable liquids stored safely as per their directions on the label?	☐	☐

For more information

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Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia

Western Australia

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