

This booklet contains only some details about product safety. For more information on these products and others, contact Safe Kids Canada at

1-888-SAFE-TIPS  
www.safekidscanada.ca

Safe Kids Canada is the national injury prevention program of The Hospital for Sick Children.



High chairs, strollers, and change tables

Many children are hurt every year from falls.

- Always use the safety straps in your child's stroller and high chair.
- Make sure stroller brakes work. Use them every time you stop your stroller.
- Never leave your child alone on a change table. Keep everything you need right beside you.

Toy boxes and chests

Children have been badly hurt when toy box lids fell on their heads or necks. Some children have died when they became trapped inside a chest and could not breathe.

- Use toy boxes or chests that have lightweight lids and hinges that stop the lid from slamming down. Remove the lid if it does not have this kind of hinge.
- Make sure that the toy box or chest has holes in the side or front so that air can get inside.



Car seats and baby carriers

Use them safely in your car

- Do not use a second-hand car seat unless you have the instructions and know that it has not been in a crash. It should also have all the parts and a label that says it meets Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.
- Do not use a car seat that is more than 10 years old. The plastics start to wear out. Check the car seat label to find out when it was made. Also check the instructions for your car seat. Some car seats are safe for only 6 years.
- Always use the right kind of car seat for your child. Make sure you use it correctly. For more information about choosing and using car seats, contact Safe Kids Canada.



Use them safely in your home

- Keep a car seat or baby carrier on the floor, rather than a table or counter. Babies can rock themselves off the edge or be knocked over.
- Car seats and baby carriers can tip over easily. Do not leave them on soft places like a bed or sofa. Your baby could fall over and be suffocated.
- Do not use a car seat as a crib. Children have died when they slipped down and became tangled in the straps.



Drawstrings on children's clothing

- Children have been strangled when the drawstrings on the hoods or necks of their clothing became caught on things.
- Choose clothes without drawstrings at the head and neck. If your child's clothes do have drawstrings, cut them off.

Check for product recalls

Products are recalled because the company has found something wrong that could be dangerous. Check the children's products in your home for recalls. Call the companies or visit their Web sites.



This brochure is part of the national Safe Kids Week campaign, generously sponsored each year by North American Founding Sponsor Johnson & Johnson. Safe Kids Canada also thanks Royal & SunAlliance for additional funding of the 2003 campaign.



Look inside for important tips about product safety



From Cribs to Car Seats  
ARE YOUR KIDS SAFE?



If you care for young children, you probably have many products to help you look after them. But you may not know that some of these products could seriously hurt a child.

Do you know which children's products to avoid?  
Are you sure that you use products correctly?

This booklet can help you learn how to keep your child safe.

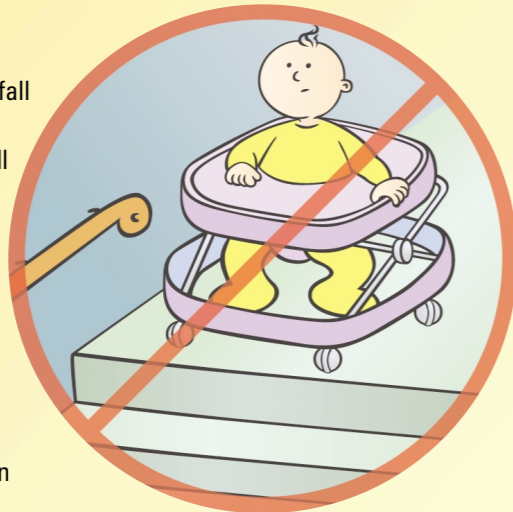
Use this booklet to check products:

- in your home
- in other homes that your child visits (for example, your child's daycare or grandparents' home)
- when you shop for children's products (either new or second-hand)
- if someone gives or lends you a children's product

#### Baby walkers with wheels

Children can be badly hurt while using baby walkers. Children can hurt their heads if they fall down stairs in a walker.

- Do not use a baby walker for your child. It will not help your child learn to walk, and puts him or her at risk for serious injuries.
- Walkers are not safe to use even if your home has baby gates at the top of stairs. Many falls in walkers have happened when baby gates were left open.
- Even if you are in the same room, your child can be hurt in a walker. Most injuries happen when a parent is close by. Babies can move very quickly in a walker and can reach items on a table or counter. Babies have been scalded by pulling hot food or drinks onto themselves.
- Instead of a walker, use an activity centre without wheels. But make sure that your child cannot reach hot drinks or other dangers.



#### Baby bath seats

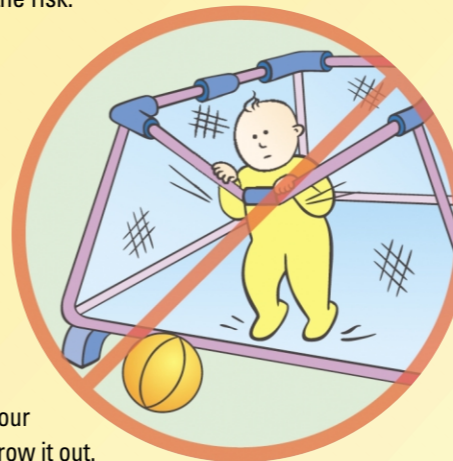
Many parents like to use a bath seat because it keeps their hands free to wash the baby. But babies left alone in bath seats have drowned. It is **never** safe to leave a baby alone in the bath, not even for a few seconds. Bath seats are **not** safety devices.

- Some babies in bath seats almost drowned even when their parents were in the bathroom. This is because the suction cups on the bottom of the bath seats did not stick properly to the bathtubs. The babies fell over into the water.
- Do not use a baby bath seat. It is not a product that you need to look after your baby. It is not worth taking the risk.

#### Playpens

Millions of playpens have been recalled for safety reasons. In some cases, children died when a side of the playpen fell down and trapped their necks.

- Call the company or visit their Web site to see if your child's playpen has been recalled. Some of these recalls are very recent. Be sure to check even if your playpen is fairly new.
- If your playpen has been recalled, stop using it immediately. Find out if the company will replace your playpen or fix it. If your playpen cannot be fixed, throw it out.
- Even if your playpen has a safe design, make sure you use it correctly every time. Are the sides locked into place? If not, they could fall down and trap your child's neck.
- For more important information about playpens, contact Safe Kids Canada.



#### Cribs

Cribs made before 1986 are dangerous. Some children died in older cribs when the part supporting the mattress fell down and they became trapped. Others died when their heads got caught between crib bars that were too far apart (more than 6 centimetres or 2-3/8 inches).

- Do not use any crib made before 1986. Check the label on your child's crib to see how old it is.
- If your crib does not have a label or is homemade, it may not be safe to use. For more information, contact Safe Kids Canada.



#### Baby gates

Check the age of your baby gate

- Baby gates made before 1990 are dangerous. Do not use them. Some children died when their heads were trapped in the gates. These gates usually have large diamond or "V" shaped openings that could trap your child's head

Use the correct type of baby gate at the top of stairs

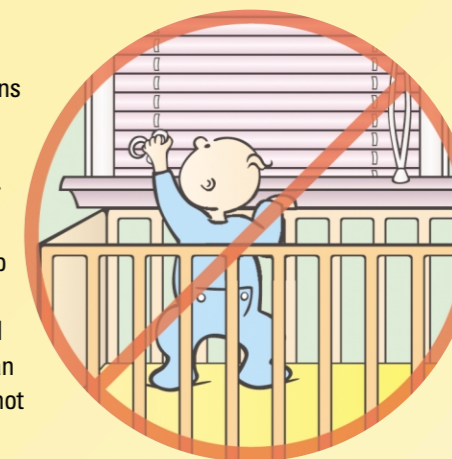
- Any baby gate at the top of stairs **must** be fastened to the wall with screws. Do not use a pressure gate. If your child leans on

a pressure gate at the top of stairs, it could fall over and your child could fall down the stairs.

#### Blind and curtain cords

Be sure to use window blinds and curtains safely. Children have died when their heads got caught in the cords.

- Keep your child's crib or bed and other furniture away from the window.
- Cut the pull cords short and tie them up high. Also check the inside cords that hold blind slats in place. If you can pull out a loop of the inside cord longer than 15 centimetres (6 inches), the blind is not safe. Throw it out.



#### Bunk beds

Some children have died using bunk beds that do not meet safety standards. Their heads were caught between parts of the bed. Children can also be badly injured from a fall from the top bunk.

- Do not allow children under 6 years to sleep or play on the top bunk.
- Check your bunk bed for a label that says it meets ASTM safety standards. There are no laws in Canada to stop stores from selling unsafe bunk beds.
- Check the spaces between the guardrails on the top bunk. They should be no more than 9 centimetres or 3-1/2 inches. For more important information about bunk bed safety, contact Safe Kids Canada.

