



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Every year nearly three million children seek medical attention because of unintentional injuries, and approximately 2,000 are fatally injured. As a parent of a young child, you want your child to be safe—especially in your own home. What can you do to help prevent avoidable injuries? You can learn about safety dangers with the help of the Home Safety Council.

The Home Safety Council and its funding partners have teamed up with Weekly Reader to educate students in grades K-3 and their families about how to spot home safety hazards and what to do to avoid and prevent them. "Safety Rangers Spot Dangers" is an educational program your child has been participating in at school. It focuses on the dangers of falling, poisoning, fires/burns, choking, and drowning. The program emphasizes that children should tell an adult about safety dangers so the adult can fix the problem. Children are also encouraged to learn their address and phone number, and the phone numbers of the fire and police departments in your area and the Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222).

To reinforce the Home Safety Council's message, work with your child to enhance the safety of your home and help them memorize your address and phone number. The checklist on this page is a safety guide that can help keep your family safe. Tour your home with your child as you check off the safety solutions that have been addressed. And remember, when you hear your child say, "Code Red Rover, Grownup Come Over," you'll know another hazard has been avoided.

Sincerely,

Meri-K Appy
Meri-K Appy
President
Home Safety Council

Sarah Miles
Sarah Miles
Director, Education and Outreach
Home Safety Council



Safety Checklist

- Has your child memorized your address and phone number?
- Do you keep emergency numbers next to the phone and has your child memorized them?
- Do you have a first-aid kit that is easily accessible and stocked with emergency items?
- Do you test your smoke alarms once a month to make sure they are working, and replace the batteries every year?
- Does your family practice a home fire escape plan twice a year so everyone in your family knows at least two exits out of every room and where to meet outside the home in case of an emergency?
- Do you keep fire extinguishers near exits and do you know when and how to use them?
- Have you installed a working carbon monoxide detector in your home?
- Does your child stay at least three feet away from the stove at all times?
- Do you keep all pot handles turned away from the edge of the stove?
- Are all your household cleaners, vitamins, and medications kept in locked cabinets?
- Are flammable items, such as gasoline and fertilizers, kept in their original containers in a locked storage area separate from the home?
- Do you keep flammable items away from your fireplace and keep a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace?
- Do you keep matches and lighters in a locked cabinet?
- Are you careful not to overload electrical outlets and power strips?
- Do you check all wires and cords for damage and cover all unused electrical outlets?
- Are you careful not to run power cords or wires across floors?
- Have you secured rugs with rubber backing or tape, and added a grab bar and rubber mats inside (and outside) the shower or tub?
- Have you checked to make sure blind cords are not dangling low off the window and do not hang in a loop?
- Is your trash can covered with a lid?
- Are you careful not to leave hot running water unattended?
- Do you test the temperature of your child's bath water?
- Do you keep your water heater at 120 degrees or less?
- Are you careful not to leave small appliances plugged in or near water?
- Do you leave hot liquids, such as coffee or water, out of reach of children?
- Do you always stay in the kitchen when food is cooking on the stove?
- Do you drain the water from bathtubs and buckets, and flip over kiddie pools when not in use?
- Are you careful not to leave grills unattended while in use, and do you keep grills away from play areas?
- Do you keep power tools and gardening equipment unplugged and out of reach?
- Have you installed a five-foot fence or barrier around all four sides of a swimming pool and keep it locked at all times?
- Do you constantly supervise children in or near water, such as pools, ponds, bathtubs, buckets, etc.?
- Did you use protective soft surfacing, such as wood chips or mulch, under all outdoor playground equipment?
- Do you keep all stairwells, paths, and walkways well lit?

Want to learn more about how to keep your family safe at home? Take the home safety pledge at homesafetycouncil.org today and receive free e-information.