

Dear Parents and Guardians,



As a parent of a young child, you want your child to be safe — especially in your own home. But did you know that nearly three million children seek medical attention each year because of home injuries? There are steps you can take to help make your home safe and reduce the risk of injury, including teaching your child how to recognize potential safety hazards and what to do if they see them. Children should be empowered to do their part to create a safe home, such as cleaning up after themselves. However, they should also be encouraged to tell a grownup if they see something that is not safe.

The Home Safety Council and its funding partners have teamed up with Lifetime Learning Systems, a division of Weekly Reader, to educate students in grades K through 3 and their families about how to spot home safety hazards, and what to do to avoid and prevent them. “**Safety Rangers Say No to Dangers**” is an educational program your child has been participating in at school. It focuses on the dangers of fires and burns, falling, choking, drowning, and poisoning. The program also teaches children to tell an adult about safety dangers immediately by saying, “Code Red Rover, Grownup Come Over,” so the adult can fix the problem. (Rover is the Home Safety Council’s mascot.)

To reinforce the Home Safety Council’s message, work with your child to enhance the safety of your home. The checklist on this page is a safety guide to help keep your family safe. Take a walk through your home with your child and check off the safety solutions you make or already have in place. To learn more about how to keep your family safe at home, visit homesafetycouncil.org. Your child can also visit coderedrover.org for fun online safety puzzles and games.

Sincerely,

Meri-K Appy

Meri-K Appy
President
Home Safety Council

Angela Mickalide

Angela D. Mickalide, Ph.D., CHES
Director of Education and Outreach
Home Safety Council

Supported by:



© 2005 Home Safety Council. Created by Lifetime Learning Systems®, Inc., a division of Weekly Reader Corporation.

Lifetime Learning Systems, Inc.
A Division of Weekly Reader



Safety Checklist

- Are all stairways cleared of shoes and clutter? Is the stairway area well-lit?
- Do you remove small rugs or keep them from slipping with rubber backing or carpet tape? Have you added a grab bar on the wall and non-slip mats inside and outside your shower or tub?
- Are all your household matches and lighters, cleaners, vitamins, and medications kept in locked cabinets? Matches and lighters should be kept separately from chemicals.
- Are small appliances unplugged when not in use? Are the cords wrapped tightly and kept out of the reach of children so that they do not get caught on the cords or pull them and knock the appliances off the counter?
- Is a grownup always in the kitchen when the stove is on?
- Does your child know to stay three feet away from the stove?
- Do you have smoke alarms in or near all your bedrooms and test them once a month to make certain they are working properly? Do you replace batteries at least once a year? Did you replace the batteries this year?
- Does your family plan and practice a home fire drill at least twice a year so everyone in your family knows at least two exits out of every room? Does everyone know where to meet outside the home in case of an emergency?
- Do you have a carbon monoxide detector near all sleeping areas and in your basement?
- Do you have a first aid kit stocked with emergency items? Do you know where it is?
- Has your child memorized your address and phone number?
- Do you keep emergency numbers such as the fire department (or 911) and the national toll-free Poison Control Hotline (800-222-1222) next to all phones?
- Does your child wait until you have tested the water temperature before getting into the tub?
- Do you carefully watch your children at all times when they are in or near water such as pools, ponds, bathtubs, buckets, etc.?
- If you have a pool, have you installed a five-foot fence or barrier around all four sides? Do you keep it locked at all times?
- Are there 12 inches of soft surfacing, such as pea gravel or wood mulch, around backyard play equipment that extends 6 feet in all directions?