

# 18 Months to 4 Years

## Make Your Home and Vehicle Safe for Your Baby

Children at this age learn to run, climb, and to open doors, drawers and containers. They can move faster and get to places that used to be out of reach. Toddlers are not old enough to understand danger or to remember rules. Supervision of your child at this age is very important.

### How to Prevent Falls

Keep furniture, including your child's bed, away from windows and use window guards or child-resistant latches on windows and screens.

Secure furniture, such as bookshelves and TV stands, to the wall to prevent them from falling over if a child pulls on or tries to climb them.

### How to Prevent Drowning

Constant supervision is necessary for your child in or near water, such as bathtubs, pools, paddling pools, lakes, dugouts and watering troughs. Drowning can happen in less than 5 cm (2 in.) of water. Never leave your child in the care of another child while in or near water.

Keep the lid down when the toilet is not being used. A hook and eye lock on the outside of the bathroom door keeps your child out when an adult is not around.

### How to Prevent Scalds and Burns

- Teach children to stay away from the stove, BBQs, fireplaces and fire pits.
- Turn pot handles towards the centre of the stove and use back burners.
- Do not let cords from electrical appliances such as kettles, toasters, slow cookers or straightening/curling irons hang over the edge of the counter or table.
- Cover all electrical outlets with outlet covers.



### How to Prevent Choking

- Children have small airways and can easily choke. Anything that is small enough to fit in a toilet paper roll should be kept away from children under three years of age.
- Keep small objects such as keys, coins and toys with small parts out of your child's reach. If there are children of different ages in the house, keep their toys separate.
- Mash, grate or cut into very small pieces, hard or solid foods such as raw fruits and vegetables, as well as small, round foods such as grapes and hot dogs.
- Keep plastic bags and wrap, latex balloons and broken pieces of balloon out of reach of your child; if swallowed they can suffocate your child.

### Fire Safety

- Install smoke detectors on each level of the home.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors on each level of the home and outside of sleeping areas. Carbon monoxide is a deadly gas that cannot be sensed by taste, smell or sight.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors monthly and change batteries every 6 months.
- Have a fire extinguisher on each level of your home near the exits.
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach of your child.
- Plan an escape route from your home in case of a fire and practice it with your family.
- Teach your children "Stop, Drop and Roll" if their clothes catch fire.



### Remember:

- Respond immediately to the smoke or carbon monoxide alarm. Leave your home at once.
- Call the fire department and do not go back into the building.