

little urbanites

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Baby Proofing Your Home

Bathroom:

1. Pay special attention to decorative items. Pretty towels, decorative soaps, etc. are all fair game for your toddler. Even if they may not be tall enough now, they will be before you know it. Remove all items that could end up in your toddler's mouth.
2. Toilet paper - Kiddos love to play with toilet paper. Remove the toilet paper from the roll all together and keep it up high until your child is old enough to leave it alone or purchase a TP saver, it prevents the roll from unwinding
3. Cabinet - Cabinet locks/latches are a must for all drawers and doors in the bathroom. Move all medication and cleaning supplies to a higher shelf, and make sure they are under lock and key.
4. Toilet Lock - These come in a variety of different types.
5. Tub safeties - Bath time should always be supervised! There are lots of fun items that can help improve the safety of the tub area. Move all toiletries and soaps up high. So your little one can't reach them. Spout covers are available in fun animal shapes can help prevent bumped heads. Bath mats and non-slip surfaces are best for the tub. Adjust your water heater to 120 ° degrees. This should be hot enough for the rest of the family, but safe for baby

Kitchen:

1. Watch the stove at all times. Turn pot and pan handles towards the back of the stove to prevent possible spills. A stove guard can help prevent your baby from burning themselves on the burners. If your toddler can reach the stove knobs- try installing ones that they are unable to operate.
2. The oven should also be watched at all times. Appliance locks can be purchased to keep this area secure. The key is to find one that is heat resistant and durable.
3. Appliance locks - You will want to install locks/latches on all appliances. This includes stove, fridge, and dishwasher.
4. Cabinet locks -These are the same type that you installed in the bathroom. Many parents choose to have one safe cabinet that baby can explore. Fill this cabinet with plastic and unbreakable items. Your baby may practice their musical talent with a Tupperware drum set!
5. Trash - Keep a lid on the trash can at all times.

6. Be mindful of small appliances. Your toddler can easily pull the cords and face electrocution. Keep toasters, coffee makers, phones, and microwave cords out of reach. Cord softeners are also available to keep them out of babies reach.

7. Clean up spills immediately.

8. Plastic kitchen bags and trash bags are one of the most dangerous things you can have in your home. Keep these up high and out of babies reach.

Nursery:

1. A safe crib should be free of paint (which could be lead-based) and the slats should be close together. You should not be able to place a soda can between the slats. The mattress should fit snugly into the base, allowing no more than two fingers between the mattress and the sides.

2. Place the crib in the right place. If you must place the crib by a window, make sure that all cords are tied up properly out of the babies reach and the windows are locked. Ideally, it is best to not place a crib anywhere near windows.

3. Bedding - While your baby bedding set may include a pillow and comforter, you should never place these things in with the baby. Wearable blankets are the safest for small children.

4. Bookcases, dressers, changing tables or flat screen TVs etc. All of these should be secured to the wall using L brackets to prevent tipping over.

Halls and Stairways:

1. Night lights: Poorly lit areas are breeding grounds for trouble. So make sure that stairwells and hallways are all properly lit

2. Rugs: If you have rugs, make sure that they are secured with rug tape or have non-slip backing.

3. Always use a baby gate at the top and bottom of all stairways.

4. Consider carpeting your stairs to help soften falls.

Basement:

1. Little ones enjoy opening and closing doors, so use a door knob latch or cover that will prevent them from going where they shouldn't. A baby gate should be installed at the top and bottom of the basement stairs as well to prevent any falls.

2. Chemicals: if you use the basement as an area for storage, you want to make sure that all chemicals and harmful substances are very high up on shelves. This includes power tools and crafting supplies.
3. Shelves: All shelves and furniture should be secured with L-brackets to prevent tip-over and accidents.
4. Flooring: Carpet is best for bumps and bruises, so consider placing a few strategically placed rugs or carpet remnants if you do not want to carpet the whole basement.

Family Room:

1. Electrical covers - There are the plastic covers that typically come in a pack of 12 or 24. They are inexpensive and go in any outlet that your baby can reach.
2. Window treatments - Window covering or blind cords can be a major hazard for your baby, especially when near furniture. You'll want to tie these up so that your child is unable to reach them. Cord softeners can be purchased as well to do the job.
3. Bookshelves/furniture etc. Furniture should be secured with L-brackets. Your baby will try to pull themselves up on various items, so it is important to secure all items. Including your flat screen TV.
4. Small breakables and other small items. Place breakables up high, paying special attention to items that are small enough to pose as a choking hazard.
5. Furniture edges - Sharp coffee table edges can prove to be a big problem for toddlers. You can buy corner guards at any store, or you can make your own. Make sure that whatever you use is secured properly, and your little one can't pry it off and possibly choke on it.
6. Front/Back doors - Doorknob covers may work, or you can choose to install high deadbolts that will keep your curious one inside.

Baby Proofing Resources:

www.babyproofingdirectory.com: Use this site to find a local professional baby proofer in your area.

www.safety1st.com: Tips room by room, videos, and more information on the Safety 1st products that are carried by Little Urbanites.

www.parenthood.com: Tips for baby proofing for the first 12 months of childhood.