

unsafe sleeping environments, such as an adult bed. Children should be provided their own sleeping spaces.



Cribs should not have missing or broken slats or hardware, loose-fitting mattresses or slats more than 2 1/3 inches apart.

Remove all pillows, quilts, comforters, stuffed toys and other soft, pillow-like products from the crib.

Consider using a sleeper or other sleep clothing as an alternative to blankets and other covering.

The safest sleeping position for a baby is on his or her back, which reduces the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

## 6. FIREARMS

Never leave firearms where children can access them. Firearms should always be stored in a locked location.

Ammunition should be locked up in a location separate from firearms.

Children should be taught that guns are dangerous and what to do if they encounter one:

Stop!

Don't touch.

Leave the area.

Tell an adult immediately.

With many homeowners owning guns, parents should be aware of their children's surroundings when visiting other's homes for safety reasons.



# Play It Safe

*Safe children are no accident.*

As the world's largest veterans organization, The American Legion embodies strong middle-class American values and forms a grassroots force dedicated to love of country and committed to veterans, their families, their communities and the young people of this nation.

For more information on keeping children safe:

### American Association of Poison Control Centers

800-222-1222  
[www.aapcc.org](http://www.aapcc.org)

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

888-327-4236  
[www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov)

### National Rifle Association

800-231-0752  
[programs.nra.org](http://programs.nra.org)

### National Safety Council

800-621-7615  
[www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)

### United States Fire Administration

301-447-1000  
[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)



## THE AMERICAN LEGION

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COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

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# Play It Safe

*Safe Children Are No Accident.*

## SIX MOST COMMON CAUSES OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH FOR CHILDREN

### 1. MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

More than half of children who die in motor vehicle accidents are not restrained in child safety seats or are improperly restrained.

Laws regarding child restraints and seat belts vary by state; however, experts agree the safest location for a child in a car is the backseat.

Most states offer programs to help low-income families obtain required child safety seats. Check with your local department of motor vehicles.

Many local law enforcement agencies offer free car-seat inspections to ensure proper installation.

The appropriate use of car and booster seats, and correct seatbelt use saves thousands of children every year.



### 2. DROWNING

Tragedy can strike in a few brief seconds. Never leave children unattended near water, and observe the following water safety tips:

#### Indoors

Never leave a baby or toddler alone or with an older sibling in the bath, not even for a second.

Children have drowned in toilets. Keep toilet lids down or locked.

A curious toddler can easily drown in a bucket with only a small amount of water in it. Empty and store all containers with water after each use.

#### Outdoors

Keep your property clear of containers that

might contain standing water, such as buckets, pails, flowerpots and garbage cans.

Empty wading pools when not in use.

Always supervise hot-tub use. Cover and lock when not in use.

Enclose swimming pools on all sides with at least a 4-foot-high fence with an entry gate that locks. Consider using a safety cover, gate alarm and pool alarms.

Keep basic lifesaving equipment (such as a pole, rope and flotation device) by the pool and know how to use it.

All children should wear a fitted life vest at all times when in boats, canoes, rafts and inner tubes. Non-swimming children should always wear a vest around water.



### 3. FIRE/BURNS

Supervising children at all times and observing the following tips can help keep children safe.

Keep lighters and matches out of reach at all times.

Install smoke detectors on every level of your home and near sleeping areas. Check the batteries once a month and replace the batteries twice per year.

Water heaters should be set to no more than 120 degrees Fahrenheit to help prevent burns from hot water.

Always check the temperature of bath water before placing a child in the tub.

Fire extinguishers should be mounted in kitchens, garages and workshops.



Cooking is the number one cause of residential fires. Never leave cooking appliances in use unattended.

Burning candles should never be left unattended or put in locations where children or pets can knock them over.

### 4. POISONING

Every year, millions of people are unintentionally poisoned. Children under the age of 6 pose the greatest risk. Follow these tips to poison-proof your home:

Keep the number of your poison control center on or near your telephone.

Store all household chemicals and medications in their original child-resistant containers. Promptly return these products to an appropriate storage location after use.

Keep handbags and diaper bags out of reach of children.

Never leave a child unattended with a poisonous substance, not even for a second.

Know what plants in or around your home are poisonous and keep children away.

Educate children about the dangers poisonous substances pose.

### 5. SUFFOCATION/ STRANGULATION

Plastic bags should be kept out of reach of children at all times.

Keep window blind cords and draw strings out of reach of children.

Most children that die of suffocation do so in

