

# What Parents Should Know About Keeping Kids Safe



Preventable injury remains the leading killer of Kansas children ages 1-14.

Here are some ways to help keep children out of danger:

- ★ Put babies to sleep on their backs until they can turn over by themselves. Usually this happens by 5 months of age in a term infant.
- ★ To prevent choking, never give a child under 8 a latex balloon, and keep small objects such as coins, pieces of toys, buttons, screws and plastic bags out of a child's reach.
- ★ Install gates at the top and bottom of stairs.
- ★ Use plug protection for all unused electrical outlets.
- ★ Never leave a young child alone in a bathtub or near water, not even for a minute.
- ★ To prevent accidental scalding, set your water heater at 120° or less.
- ★ When in a car, make sure your child uses a safety belt or approved child's car seat that is correctly installed.
- ★ Always turn pot handles inward on the stove. Use back burners whenever possible.
- ★ Test smoke alarms monthly.
- ★ Keep the National Poison Control Center hotline number beside each phone: 1-800-222-1222.
- ★ Learn CPR and first-aid basics.
- ★ Teach your children to wear a helmet and other appropriate safety gear when bicycling, skateboarding or on roller blades.
- ★ Keep guns unloaded and locked up.
- ★ Keep these items out of children's reach or in cabinets with child safety locks:
  - Cleaning products, medicines, vitamins, cosmetics
  - Matches, lighters, candles
  - Knives, razors and other sharp objects
  - Gasoline, weed killers, bug sprays and other poisons
  - Houseplants and their leaves (many plants are poisonous)
  - Space heaters and fans
  - Drapery cords and window blind cords
  - Purses and backpacks that may contain medicines and dangerous items



If you believe a child is being abused or neglected, call the state child abuse hotline at 1-800-922-5330. If the situation is an emergency, call 911.

