

While babies are at the stage of putting everything in their mouths, all small objects need to be kept out of reach. This can be tiring, but is only for a short time. Anything smaller than a ping pong ball, or that fits into a 35mm film canister, is a choking hazard for young children.

Feeding

To avoid choking hazards do not feed young children nuts, raw carrots, bones and other hard foods.

When starting young children on solids finely mash food to avoid choking, then progress to coarsely mashed and grated foods.

Cords and Ribbons

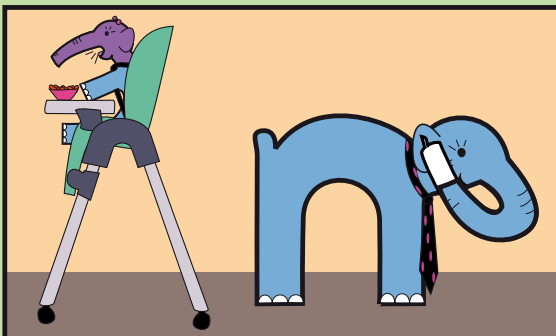
Ensure that appliances are kept up high or pushed to the back of the bench, are always switched off at the powerpoint when not in use and that all cords are kept short and neat. If possible use a cordless kettle and iron or use cord curlers to avoid strangulation.

Plastic bags should be tied in the middle and kept out of reach of young children.

There should be a place up high and out of reach for handbags and school bags so that they're kept away from young children.

Do not dress babies in clothing with ribbons or ties, especially clothing with cords near and around the neck.

Keep washing lines free from hanging objects, like rope and low hanging peg bags.



Toys

Choose age-appropriate toys. Mandatory standards require that toys for children under 3 years of age must not contain small parts that are a choking hazard. Anything smaller than a ping pong ball or a 35mm film canister is a choking hazard.

Keep toys for older children out of reach of infants and toddlers and encourage older children to play with smaller toys in a separate room.

Check toys regularly for signs of wear and tear and discard broken toys as soon as you notice them.

Choose quality toys that are well made. They should not have parts that are likely to break off, seams that could break open easily or have long cords or protruding parts.

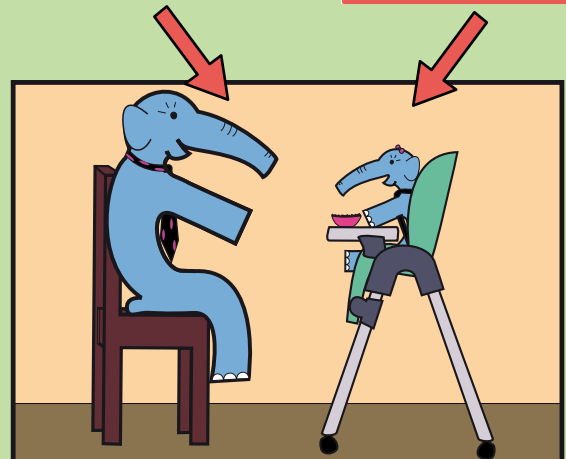
Do not store toys in plastic bags. Drill holes in toy boxes for ventilation and use toy box lids that are not attached.

Look for toys with safe, large parts. For examples: large hollow blocks, pyramid rings, large picture puzzles (3-10 pieces), model trucks and tractors.

Be aware of small parts on toys. Look out for things like loose eyes or buttons on: dolls, toy animals, doll prams and houses, dump trucks, simple trains etc.

Never leave young children alone to eat

Don't feed young children hard or chewy foods



How Accidents can be Prevented

STEP 1 – Spot the hazards

Use this brochure and other Kidsafe resources to help you spot hazards in your home.

STEP 2 – Decide how to deal with the hazard

This depends on the hazard you are treating and you will have to decide what is best for your family and home.

- As a rule, it is best to remove the hazard
- The next best solution is to guard against the hazard (e.g. drill holes in toy boxes)
- After this, you can use safety locks and gear (e.g. cords wound up)
- As a last resort you can rely on supervising the child closely and keeping them within reach

Never depend on telling children not to do something. The younger the child the more difficult it is for them.

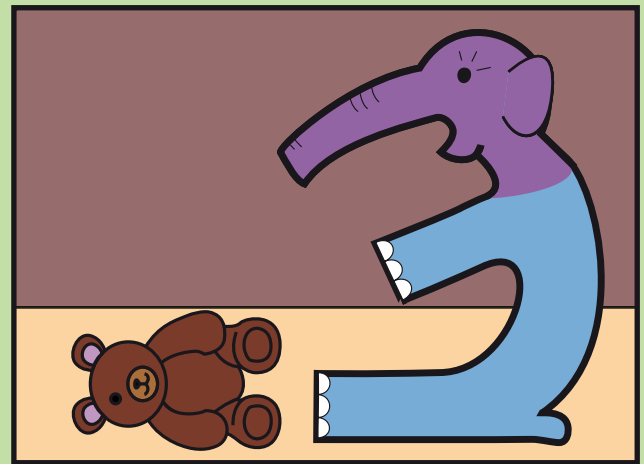
STEP 3 – Make the changes

Once you have decided how to deal with the hazard, do it straight away. You will feel more relaxed and children will be able to play more safely.

Combine any barriers you put in place with adult supervision and education.



Inhalation and Choking



For More Information

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