

Lock cupboards and block stairs

Drawers and cupboards that can be reached by children should be fitted with child-resistant latches to prevent access and finger jams.

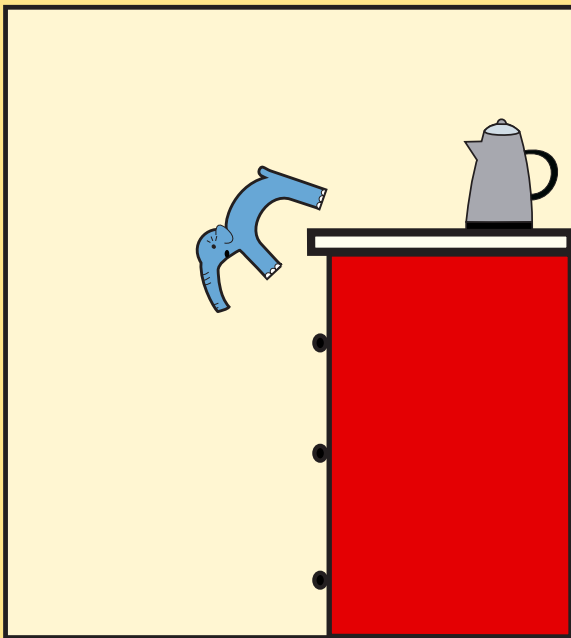
Fit a safety gate to the bottom and top of stairs to prevent children gaining access. Pressure mounted gates are not suitable as they are not strong or stable enough. Ensure all stairwells have a hand rail and side guards.

Keep Out of Reach

Use high storage areas for items that pose the greatest danger to children. Low storage areas (e.g. under the kitchen sink, drawers) can be used for items that pose less of a risk.

Store lawn mowers, garden equipment, power tools and other equipment out of access to children.

Keep surfaces such as kitchens and workshop benches clear and return items to their storage space immediately after use.



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, 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. gates)
- After this, you can use safety locks and gear (e.g. cupboard locks, wall mounts for tv's)
- 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

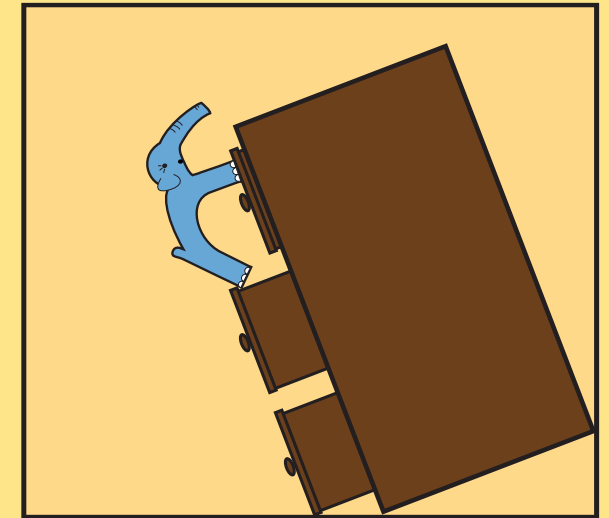
Once you have decided how to deal with the hazard, do it straight away. You will feel more relaxed and children will be able to play more safely.

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



Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia

Falls and Blunt Force Trauma



For more information

Kidsafe ACT

(02) 6290 2244

The Kidsafe Centre

Collett Place, Pearce

www.kidsafeact.com.au

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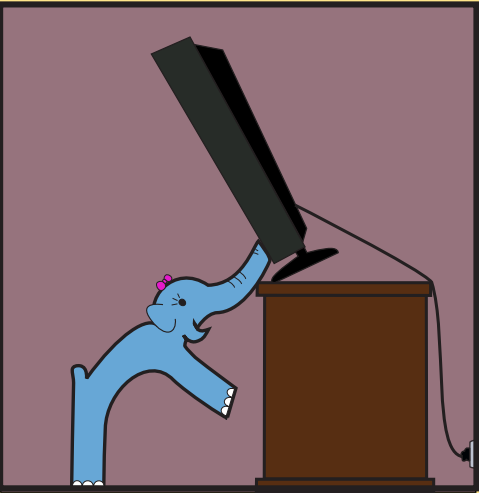
Children are naturally inquisitive but do not have the skills to identify hazardous objects and behaviours. However, choosing furniture carefully, securing heavy furniture, locking cupboards and drawers as well as keeping dangerous objects and areas out of reach can prevent falls and blunt force trauma to children.

Choose Furniture Carefully

Folding mechanisms in furniture and appliances can jam or trap fingers. Choose options that can't be easily operated by children and that don't fold up suddenly.

Check the gaps between uprights in banisters, fences and railings and ensure that they are no greater than 10cm to prevent children from becoming trapped or falling through.

Make sure that automatic garage doors have a device fitted to stop them when an object is encountered. The switch should be out of reach of children.



Beds

Kidsafe does not recommend bed sharing. It is difficult to apply SIDS and Kids safe sleeping guidelines, and babies can be injured by rolling out of bed or when adults roll on top of them.

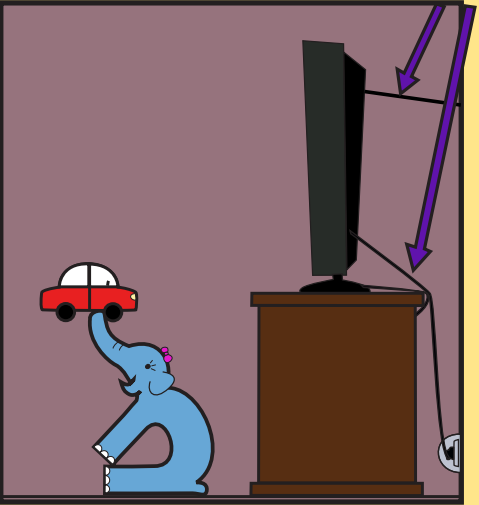
Where possible use trundle beds and other systems instead of bunk beds. If a bunk bed is the only option, try choosing one that is built to the Australian Standard and do not allow young children on the top bunk.

Secure Heavy Furniture

When toddlers and children use heavy items (such as televisions and cupboards) to stand up or climb they can pull the furniture on top of themselves. Make sure that:

- You anchor free-standing furniture and appliances to the wall i.e. bookshelves and televisions
- Outdoor furniture, barbecues and heaters are stable and secure
- Garden statues and bird baths are cemented to the ground to prevent toppling

Secure the television to the wall or cabinet



Nursery Furniture

Where possible choose nursery furniture that meets Australian Standards.

Do not leave children unattended on the change table, even to just turn away. Have everything you will need next to the change table and in reach and use any safety straps provided.

Children are often injured by trying to climb out of cots and falling. Be wary of objects in and near the cot that can be used as stepping stones or that can help children climb.

Most injuries in highchairs are caused by children standing up or trying to climb out. Choose a highchair with a full 5-point harness and use it until your child has grown out of it. Adjust the harness firmly to your child each time you use the highchair and do not leave them unattended. If the highchair is adjustable, position the chair at its lowest point.

Where possible, keep nursery furniture such as highchairs, cots and change tables away from other furniture, to prevent children using these to push the furniture over or climb out.

Ensure that you use and adjust the 5-point safety harness in your pram or stroller every time you use it. Make sure you use pram brakes when stopped, keep a hand on the pram at all times and use the safety tether strap if your pram has one.

