

Older Babies (6 to 12 months)

Background

Babies this age are on the move!

As babies grow and learn new skills, they can move faster and reach higher. This means that your baby can get into danger very quickly.

Older babies need special protection from:

- Falls
- Pulling things down on themselves
- Choking on food or small objects
- Scalds
- Drowning
- Injuries from riding in the car

Safety Checks

- ✓ Install safety gates at the top *and* bottom of stairs.
- ✓ Make sure your child's food will not cause choking. Grate, mash, blend or chop food into tiny pieces. Do not give your baby nuts, popcorn or lollies.
- ✓ Keep medicines, cleaning products, and other poisons locked up.
- ✓ Install smoke alarms (test them regularly and change the battery on 1st April every year).



Safety Tips

FALLS

Use safety gates at the top *and* bottom of stairs to stop your baby from falling. Make sure that gates at the top of your stairs are anchored to the wall or balustrade.

Do not use a pressure gate at the top of stairs. This type of gate could fall over if your child leans on it.

Baby Walkers are linked to a number of injuries. They are not recommended for use. If you choose to use one, select one with a wide base and a braking system. Alternatively try a stationary activity centre.

Use the harness in the high chair to keep your baby from falling out. Do not let your baby stand up in a high chair or climb up the sides of the chair.

Make sure there is no furniture near windows or balcony rails. Your baby could climb on the furniture and fall out.

Put window guards on all windows on the second floor and above. These act like a gate in front of the window. Or fasten the windows so that they cannot open more than 10 centimetres (4 inches). The window screen will not stop your child from falling.

Keep large toys and stuffed animals out of the cot or playpen. Your baby could use them to climb over the side or become a suffocation risk.

Use the safety strap to keep your baby safe while in a shopping trolley.

CHOKING AND SUFFOCATION

Keep small objects out of your baby's reach. These include, but are not limited to:

- Coins
- Toys
- Buttons
- Pins
- Earrings

A small object or choking hazard is anything that fits into a 35mm film canister.



Do not attach dummies to babies with strings or cords.

Cords from curtains and blinds can strangle your baby. Tie cords up where your baby cannot reach them. Cords should be at least 1.6 metres above the ground so that children cannot reach them.

HOME SAFETY TIPS

Use outlet caps and plug covers to protect your baby from electrical shocks. Do not let your baby put cords in his or her mouth.



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Make sure bookcases, lamps, televisions, and other heavy furniture are fastened to the wall so that your baby cannot pull them over.

POISONING

Keep poisons out of your baby's reach. This includes medicines, cleaning products, cigarettes, and alcohol.

If your doctor has said to give medicine to your baby, check the label and measure the medicine carefully every time you give it to your baby.

CAR SAFETY

Your baby needs a car seat every time you ride in the car. Never hold your baby on your lap.

Never place your baby's car seat in the front seat. This is especially important if your car is fitted with airbags.

Check to ensure the car seat you choose fits in your vehicle before you buy.

Babies should stay rearward facing until they reach a combination of these **minimum** requirements:

- Weight of 8kg (Preferably 9kg)
- Good Head Control (Child can sit unaided)
- Approximately 6 months of age.

Fitting your Child Car Restraint

If you need help fitting your child car restraint or advice on which restraint will suit your vehicle & individual needs contact Kidsafe WA on 1800 802 244 for more information.

Choosing a Car Seat for your older baby:

For babies from a minimum 8kg in weight (approx. 6 months of age) onwards you have several different types of restraints to choose from:

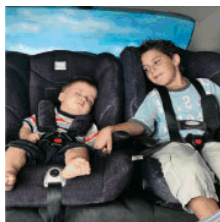
- Convertible Car Seat (Birth to 18kg)
 - Rearward Facing: Birth to 12kg (*A number of overseas countries now require babies to be rearward facing up to 12 months of age*).
 - Forward Facing: 8 to 18kg
- Toddler Seat (8kg to 18kg)
- Combination Restraint (8 to 26kg)
 - Toddler function: 8 to 18kg with internal harness
 - Booster Function: 18 to 26kg with adult lap/sash seatbelt or child safety harness



Rearward Facing Convertible Child Car Restraint



Toddler Restraints
8 to 18kg



Combination Toddler/Booster
Restraints - 8 to 26kg

BATHROOM SAFETY

Always stay with your baby when he or she is in the bath. Test the bath water with your hand before you put the baby in it. The water should feel warm, not hot.

Lower the delivery temperature of the hot water in your home to a maximum 50 degrees Celsius.

At 60 degrees a full thickness scald happens in less than a second, at 50 degrees it takes 5 minutes. Hot tap water can burn your baby.



SUMMARY - STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT INJURIES	
Developmental Actions	Hazards/Risks
Crawling, pulling to stand, cruising	Burns; falls down stairs, into bath, onto sharp edges
Increased curiosity	Ingestions (medicines, plants, chemicals, household cleaners)
Pincer grasp	Grips small objects, eg marbles and toy parts, pills, seeds, plants - choking
Putting everything in mouth	Biting electrical cords, poisoning, choking
Going after hidden objects	Aspiration, Strangulation (blind cords)
Pulls objects down	Hot liquid burns, objects on tables - avoid using tablecloths.

Other Information available

For more detailed information on any of the topics listed visit www.kidsafewa.com.au or contact Kidsafe WA on 1800 802 244 for specific information and advice.

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For more information ☎ (08) 9340 8509

Child Safety Information Line ☎ 1800 802 244

Poisons Information Centre ☎ 13 11 26

www.kidsafewa.com.au