

Toddlers (1 and 2 year olds)

Background

Children this age are busy, curious and full of energy!

Around their first birthday, most babies learn to walk. During the next months, they will learn to run and climb, and to open doors, drawers, and bottles. This means that your toddler can now get into places and things that used to be out of reach.

Toddlers are too young to understand or remember about danger. Supervise your child carefully. Make your home a safe place for him or her to explore.

Toddlers need special protection from:

- Poisoning
- Drowning
- Choking on small objects
- Burns and Scalds
- Falls
- Injuries from riding in the car

Safety Check

- ✓ Make sure you have safety gates at the top **and** bottom of stairs.
- ✓ Lock up medicines, cleaning products, and other poisons. Many toddlers can open child-resistant containers.
- ✓ Install smoke alarms (test them regularly and change the battery on 1st April every year).
- ✓ Lower the temperature of the hot water in your home to 50 degrees Celsius.

Safety Tips

IN THE BEDROOM

Before he or she is tall enough to climb over the cot rails, move your toddler out of a cot and into a bed.

Keep your child's furniture, including his or her bed, away from windows. That way, your child cannot climb on the furniture and fall out the window.

Put a window guard in front of your child's window so he or she cannot fall out. Or fasten that window so that it does not open more than 10 centimetres (4 inches). A window screen will not keep your child from falling out.

IN THE KITCHEN

Many cleaning products and medicines could poison your toddler. Keep these things locked up, where your child cannot reach them. Keep your child safely out of the way when you are using poisonous products.



Keep the cords from electrical appliances where your child cannot reach them. Do not let them hang over the edge of the counter or table. Your child could pull on them and be scalded by the hot food or liquid in the appliance (such as a kettle).

Cut hard or solid foods such as raw fruits and vegetables into very small pieces. Do not give toddlers nuts, hard candy, popcorn or gum. Feed children while they are sitting down, not when they are walking or running around. This will help prevent choking.



Keep your child safely out of the way when you are cooking or making hot drinks.

IN THE BATHROOM

Keep all medicines and cleaning products locked away.

Always supervise your toddler in the bathroom. **DO** not let older children supervise your toddler. They may not know how to keep your toddler safe.

Use a rubber bath mat or non-slip stickers in the bathtub to prevent falls.

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 toddler.

GOING OUT

Use a safety strap to keep your toddler sitting down in a shopping trolley. Use a safety strap in the stroller, jogger or pram as well.

Always supervise toddlers near ponds, pools, ditches, and at the beach. Never leave your young child alone near water or in water.

CAR SAFETY

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

Never place your toddler'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.

Make sure your child rides in the back seat of the car. It is the safest place.

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 Toddler:

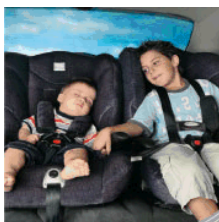
For babies from a minimum 8kg of weight (approx. 6 months of age) onwards you have several different types of restraints to choose from:

- Convertible Car Seat (Birth to 18kg)
 - 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



Toddler Restraints
8 to 18kg

Approx 6 months to 4 years



Combination Toddler/Booster Restraints

8 to 18kg with internal harness, 18 to 26kg as booster seat
Approx 6 months to 8 years

AROUND THE HOME

Watch out for things that could choke your child. Your toddler loves to put things in his or her mouth. Some examples of small things to keep out of reach are:

- Keys
- Balloons
- Coins
- Toys with small parts or batteries

Keep hot drinks away from your child. Use a cup with a lid when you are drinking something hot.

Use safety gates at the top *and* bottom of stairs.



SUMMARY - STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT INJURIES	
Developmental Actions	Hazards/Risks
Walking, running	Traffic accidents
Loves to be chased (18 to 24 months)	Running Away, into streets
Climbing (tables, desks, benches)	Ingestions (poisoning), falls, burns
Going after hidden objects	Ingestions (poisoning), electrocution
Curiosity & increased independence	Ingestions (poisoning), burns, drowning
Expanding World (backyard, garage)	Ingestions (poisoning)
Imitating behaviour	Climbs, follows older children, ingest medicines
False maturity leading to less parental supervision	All accidents
Resisting constraints	Child Restraint – Traffic Accidents
Adult foods introduced	Aspiration

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