

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). A flyscreen will not prevent 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

Any small object that fits into a 35mm film canister is considered a choking hazard.



Do not attach dummies to babies with strings or cords.

Blind and curtain cords 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. It is illegal for a child under 7 years of age to occupy the front passenger seat of a vehicle with two or more rows of seats in the NT.

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

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

- At least 6 months of age; and
- Have reached the child restraint height marker specific to the child restraint in use.

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 NT on (08) 8941 8234 for more information.

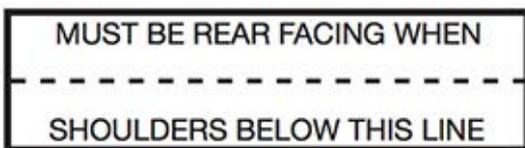
Children 6 months to 4 years of age

- Must use EITHER an approved:
 - rearward-facing child restraint, OR
 - forward facing child restraint with an inbuilt harness
 - correctly fitted to the vehicle
 - properly adjusted to fit the child's body
- Must not travel in the front seat of a vehicle that has a back row or rows of seats.

Best Practice Recommendations:

Keep your baby in a rearward-facing restraint until they reach the height marker specific to the child restraint in use.

Only move your child to a forward-facing restraint once they have met the 'MUST BE REAR FACING WHEN SHOULDERS BELOW THIS LINE' height marker, indicating that they have outgrown the rearward facing position.



Use either

- Infant Carrier
- 0 - 4 Years Rearward/Forward Facing Convertible Restraint
- 6 Months - 8 Years Fully Harnessed Restraint
- 6 Months - 8 Years Convertible Restraint



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.



Make sure the delivery temperature of the hot water in your home is 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 safety topic visit www.kidsafent.com.au or contact Kidsafe NT on (08) 8941 8234 for specific information and advice.

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Kidsafe NT would like to thank Kidsafe WA for allowing us to edit and adapt this fact sheet for the Northern Territory. Excerpts may be copied for educational purposes. Written permission is required to copy this fact sheet in its entirety.

We also acknowledge the valuable support of the NT Dept. of Health and our Road Safety Partner MACC.