



 **Prevent Child Abuse**
Kentucky™



Home Safety Check-List:



Ensuring Safe and Healthy Childhoods



Do you have vitamins or medications in the home?

All medications, including vitamins, over-the-counter medicine, and prescription medications, should be stored up and away from the sight and reach of children.

- ☐ Survey your home for secure places out of the sight and reach of children.
- ☐ Put medications and vitamins away, with the cap secure, immediately after use.
- ☐ Children may be able to manipulate and open containers with safety caps and features; another reason to ensure your medicine is “up and away.”
- ☐ Teach children what medicine is and why you must be the one to give it to them. NEVER tell a child medicine is candy as a way to get them to take it.
- ☐ Ask family members and visitors to keep purses, bags or coats with medicine up and out of sight when they are in your home.



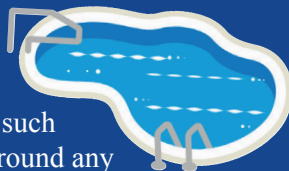
Do you have guns or firearms in the home?

The most effective way to prevent accidental gun injuries, homicide and gun injuries is by not having guns and firearms in the home. If you do keep firearms in the home, please consider the following:

- ☐ Storage. All firearms should be locked and unloaded with ammunition stored and locked separately. Children and teens should not possess keys or combinations to gain access.
- ☐ When using firearms for hunting or other legal practices, keep the safety catch in place. Before setting the gun down, always unload it.
- ☐ When children go to other houses for play-dates, sleep overs, family visits or child care, ensure those households abide by the same gun safety standards as your home does.



Do you have water toys, swimming pools or bodies of water nearby?



- ☐ Watch children without distractions, such as cell phones, when they are in or around any body of water. Keep young children within arm's reach.
- ☐ Ensure tubs, buckets, water toys, and kiddie pools are emptied immediately after use and stored upside down so they cannot collect water from rain or sprinklers.
- ☐ Teach children how to swim or enroll them in swim lessons consistent with age and development.
- ☐ Teach children the difference between swimming in a pool vs. open bodies of water such as a river, creek, lake or beach. It is safest to swim in areas that utilize designated swimming areas with lifeguards present (adults still need to monitor safety with lifeguards present).

Do you have water toys, swimming pools or bodies of water nearby? (Continued)



- ☐ Children should wear safety approved life jackets appropriate to their age when near water.

When at home, continue to watch babies and younger children around sources of water inside the home.

- ☐ Close toilet lids, and keep doors to the laundry and bathroom closed.
- ☐ Check the water temperature prior to giving your baby or toddler a bath. The temperature should be about 100 degrees or warm on your elbow.
- ☐ Never leave a young child unattended in a bathtub. Bath seats may be used, but keep in mind they do not provide extra security, so babies and young children should be monitored at all times when bath seats are used.
- ☐ Install fences around pools in heights of at least four feet with self-closing gates or latches.

Does your child have access to a trampoline?

- ☐ Never let more than one child at a time use the trampoline.
- ☐ Do not let kids do somersaults.
- ☐ Do not allow kids younger than six years old to play on a full-sized trampoline.
- ☐ Move the trampoline away from other structures or play areas.
- ☐ Always have a responsible older youth, or an adult on watch.



Does your child have access to a fireplace, stove or firepit?



Children should learn fire safety at an early age. Always supervise children around stoves, grills, firepits and fireplaces. This includes items that run on wood, gas, kerosene, and propane.

- ☐ Cook on the back burners of the stove and keep pot handles turned away from the edge. Keep hot liquids and foods away from the edge of a counter.
- ☐ Do not hold a child while cooking.
- ☐ Keep outside firepits 10 to 15 feet away from any structures, plants or trees.
- ☐ Do not allow children to stay within five feet of firepits, grills, campfires or fireplaces.
- ☐ Ensure your home or campsite has a fire extinguisher, that is not expired, and you understand how to use it.
- ☐ Always extinguish fires immediately after use. Never leave a fire unattended.

Do you own a car, lawnmower or ATV?



- ☐ Never leave a baby or child unattended in a vehicle, even for a minute.
- ☐ Never leave a sleeping baby in a car seat after exiting the vehicle. Place the baby on a safe sleep surface.
- ☐ Keep doors and trunks locked and key fobs out of reach.
- ☐ Walk around the parked car to check for children prior to driving.
- ☐ Always use age appropriate car seats and seatbelts.
- ☐ Don't be distracted while driving. Keep cell phones out of reach
- ☐ Do not allow children under the age of 12 to operate push mowers and do not allow children younger than 16 to operate ride-on lawnmowers.

Do you own a car, lawnmower or ATV? (Continued)

The American Academy of Pediatrics suggest children under the age of 16 should not ride an ATV. Anyone who does ride an ATV should follow these tips before and during riding:

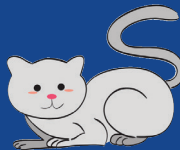
- ☐ Take a safety training course.
- ☐ Always wear an approved helmet and eye protection.
- ☐ Wear long pants, long sleeves, gloves, and over-the-ankle boots to help prevent scrapes and cuts.
- ☐ Only ride during daylight hours on designated, safe ATV trails. Stay away from public streets and paved surfaces.
- ☐ Never exceed the number of passengers recommended by the manufacturer.

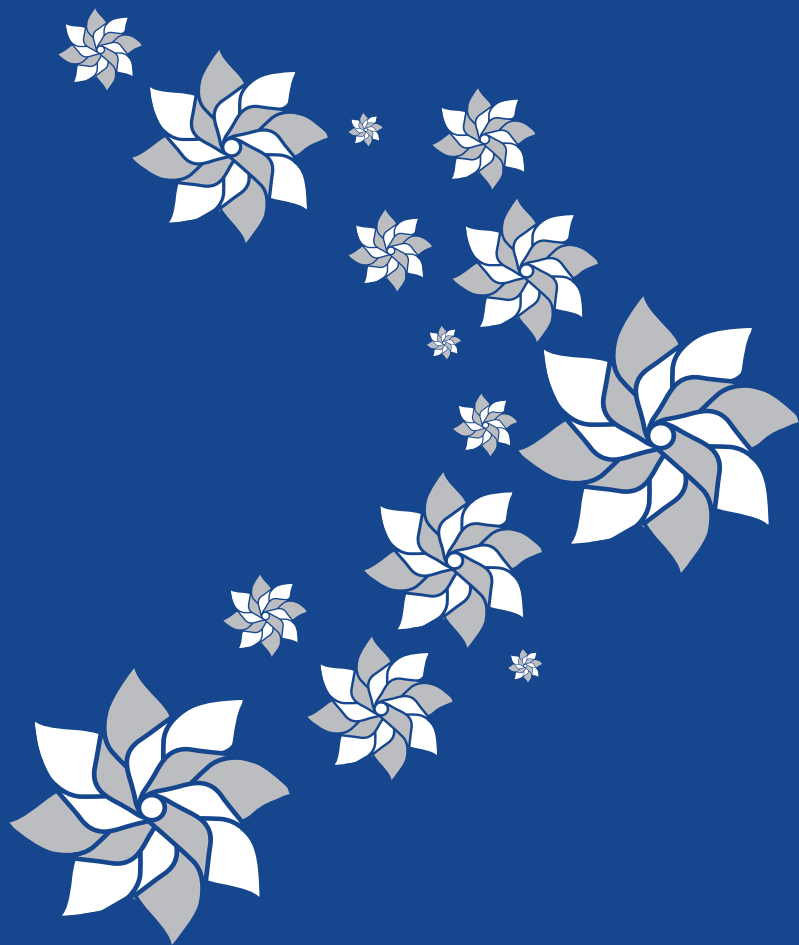


Do you have a pet or are animals nearby?



- ☐ Young children should never be left unattended with pets.
- ☐ Teach children pet safety such as never touching a pet while it is eating, sleeping, playing with a toy or in the event your pet is caring for its own babies.
- ☐ Teach children not to approach animals that do not belong to them.





1.800.CHILDREN

*A free, confidential information
and support helpline*



Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky™

*801 Corporate Drive, Suite 120
Lexington, Kentucky 40503
(859)225-8879*

American Legion
Child Welfare Foundation



www.pcaky.org



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