



Home Safe Home: Protecting Your Family from Household Dangers

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Our homes should offer our children safe places to crawl, play and grow. Yet, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, an average of 2.5 million children are injured by home hazards every year. Fortunately, parents and caregivers can take necessary steps to help reduce common household dangers and ensure their families' safety.

To honor June as National Home Safety Month, First 5 Lassen County offers the following checklist to help provide your family and loved ones with a safe home:

Throughout Your Home

- Put outlet covers on all unused electrical sockets
- Have first aid supplies handy
- Keep household products, beauty supplies and medicines out of your child's reach
- Frequently check the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

In the Living Room

- Shorten or remove any cords from blinds or drapes within your child's reach
- Make sure unstable furniture is secured to a wall or other sturdy furniture
- Cover the sharp edges of furniture with padding or cover guards
- Keep space heaters and fans away from children

In the Kitchen

- Use special safety locks on all drawers and cabinets, especially those containing sharp, small or poisonous items
- When cooking, use stove back burners or keep pot handles faced toward the back of the stove

- Keep glassware out of your child's reach
- Keep hot liquids away from your baby at all times, especially when serving or cooking food

In the Bedroom

- Place your baby on his or her back to sleep
- Remove pillows, bumper pads or stuffed toys from your child's crib
- Keep small jewelry, colognes and perfumes away from your child's reach
- Ensure closets cannot be locked from the inside

In the Bathroom

- Never leave your baby unattended in the bathroom
- Unplug all electrical appliances near water
- Always drain bath tubs
- Keep the toilet bowl closed at all times and attach a toilet latch if possible

First 5 Lassen County is committed to helping all children grow up healthy and safe. For additional home safety tips, please visit the American Association of Pediatrics Web site at www.aap.org. For more information about First 5 Lassen County programs and services, call (530) 257-9600 or visit <http://www.lassenfirst5.com>

About First 5 Lassen County

Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 to 5. First 5 Lassen County distributes approximately \$400,000 a year in Prop. 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs.

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