

## Before your baby crawls

When your baby begins crawling, be sure he can safely explore your home. One of the best ways to see the potential hazards around you is to crawl around yourself and get a view of your world from your baby's perspective. Use our guide to help you see those dangers.

- Survey your house and move cleaning supplies, medicines, vitamins, toiletries, mothballs, and other potentially toxic items out of reach or lock them up.
- Put safety plugs or outlet covers in unused sockets.
- Hide electrical cords behind furniture.
- Keep hair dryers, toasters, and other appliances unplugged and out of reach.
- Use window guards on windows to prevent falls.
- Install safety gates to block stairways at bottom and top.
- If railings have openings wider than 10 cm / 4 in, block with plastic garden fencing, Plexiglas, or other material.
- Control access to unsafe areas with safety gates, door locks, and knob covers.
- Put locks or latches on accessible cupboards and drawers that house unsafe items.
- Keep garbage bins in inaccessible cupboards or use ones with child-resistant covers.
- Cover or block access to hot radiators and floor heaters.
- Get rid of toxic houseplants such as philodendron or move them out of reach.
- Attach corner and edge guards on sharp head-height furniture.
- Secure furniture that can topple (bookcases, chests of drawers) to the walls.
- Secure tall, unstable lamps behind furniture.
- Install a fireguard and keep it in place when a fire is burning.
- Move gas fireplace keys out of reach.
- Store logs, matches, and fireplace tools out of reach.
- Put a non-slip mat in the bath.
- Fit an oven door guard to prevent burns and consider a stove guard to prevent pans being pulled over.
- Keep knives, breakables, heavy pans, and other dangerous items locked up or out of reach.
- Secure refrigerator with appliance latch.
- Don't use tablecloths or placemats -- your baby will pull them and what's on them down.
- Near the change table, move toiletries out of your baby's reach (but within yours).
- When your baby gets up on hands and knees, remove mobiles and hanging toys from the crib.
- When your baby pulls up, put crib mattress in the lowest position.
- If you have a pool, erect fencing at least 1.2 m / 4 ft high with a self-closing, self-latching gate.
- Cut off or tie up dangling cords on curtains and blinds.
- Mark sliding doors and other expanses of glass with colourful stickers.