

## Make Sure Your Child Is Safe



**1. The different things you will need to do to keep your child safe depend on how old they are and what type of trouble they can get into.**

- ◆ Kids are curious and like to challenge rules, so be prepared to keep them safe.

**2. Even though your child may learn a new skill, he or she may not be able to consider dangers with what he/she is doing.**

- ◆ A toddler doesn't understand what will happen when he falls off the table he just climbed up on.

**3. Here are some guidelines you can use to help keep your child safe:**

◆ **Infants:**

- Put all possible hazards up high and out of view. Only have safe objects around your child.
- Always use car seats when your baby rides in a car.

◆ **Toddlers & Preschoolers:**

- Use fun ways to teach safety, like with pictures, songs, and books.
- Always explain why your child is not allowed to do something. Let him/her know what the consequences will be if they break the rules ("If you climb, you will fall," instead of "Don't do that!").
- Watch TV with your child; talk about how fake TV is when compared to real life. Answer any questions about what he or she is watching (like when a cartoon shows someone flying, blowing up, or wrecking a car and then walking away from it).

◆ **School Age:**

- Always give your child specific safety rules.
- Encourage them to ask questions.
- Have them point out unsafe things around them.
- Use picture games to help them to identify unsafe things.
- Do role-playing to teach them what to do in unsafe situations.

**We're here to help.** To learn more about UIC-Specialized Care for Children's programs and services, check out our website at:

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