

## 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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