



Daily Safety Tips

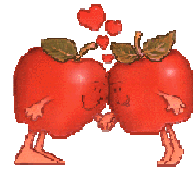


January

January is Scald-Burn Injury Month. Most of the tips listed below will help children avoid scald-burns.

1. Happy New Year! Celebrate safely with your family. Although sparklers may appear to be safe, they can burn as hot as 1200 to 2000 degrees Fahrenheit! They can easily set clothing on fire and cause severe burning.
2. Fireplaces are fun, warm and cozy. However, children should stay at least 3 feet away from a fireplace while playing.
3. Children can gather wood and other materials to go in a fireplace or campfire but should never use matches or lighters to light the fire. Always ask an adult to light a fire.
4. Tell an adult that the water heater temperature should not be higher than 120 degrees!
5. Tell adults to use the back burners and turn pot handles to the back of the stove when cooking.
6. Tell adults to keep appliance cords out of small children's reach, especially if the appliance contains hot foods or liquids.
7. Tell adults not to carry children and hot food or drinks at the same time.
8. Tell adults to place hot liquids and foods away from table and counter edges where they can easily fall off.
9. When your parents are cooking in the kitchen, keep a safe distance from the stove or the sink.
10. Do not play with matches, gasoline, lighters or any other flammable materials such as kerosene. Remind adults that these items should be locked away and out of children's reach.
11. Never leave a burning candle unattended. Candles should be placed in a safe location away from combustible materials where children or pets cannot tip them over.
12. Space heaters should be at least 3 feet away from curtains, papers, furniture and other flammable materials. Remind adults to turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
13. Help your parents test all smoke alarms every month and change the batteries once a year, even if they are hard-wired.
14. Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your house and in every sleeping area. Walk around your house today with your parents and make sure you have smoke alarms installed on every level of your house and in every sleeping area.
15. Children under the age of 7 should not operate the microwave unless they are closely supervised.
16. You should always have adults present when fireworks are being used.

17. Tell adults that a bucket or other container of water should be readily accessible when using fireworks.
18. You should “stop, drop and roll” if your clothes catch fire.
19. Never place your face or any other body part over fireworks.
20. To avoid scalding burns, stay away from hot liquids. Coffee cups, boiling water, and other hot liquids should be kept away from the edges of countertops and other places where they could easily fall over.
21. During winter months, portable heaters can help keep you and your family warm! However, it is important to remember not to play close to heaters because you could bump into them or knock them over.
22. Appliances such as curling irons and clothing irons are easy for adults to handle, but these appliances can be extremely dangerous around children! Tell adults to unplug these appliances after they use them and to keep the cords out of reach!



February

February is Motor Vehicle Safety Month. Most of the tips listed below will teach children how to be safe while riding in a car.

1. You should always use a child safety seat and/or safety belts correctly every time you ride.
2. If you are 12 years old and under you should be in a back seat of the car.
3. Tell an adult that infants, until at least 1 year old and at least 20 pounds should be in rear-facing child safety seats.
4. Tell an adult to never put a rear-facing infant or convertible safety seat in the front passenger seat of a vehicle with an active passenger air bag.
5. Children over 1 year old and between 20 and 40 pounds should be in forward-facing child safety seats.
6. Children should ride in a booster seat until they are at least 8 to 12 years old, weigh 80-100 pounds and are up to 4 feet 9 inches tall. Ask your parents about which seat you should be in.
7. If you use a booster seat in the car, you should always ride in the back seat.
8. Never place the shoulder belt under your arm or behind your back.
9. Make sure that everyone sits upright when using seat belts. Never let them lean against windows or car doors or lie down. Never put the shoulder belt under the arm or behind the back.
10. All children under age 13 should ride in the back seat properly using a seat belt.
11. Child safety seats and safety belts, when correctly used, can prevent injury and save lives.
12. Heavy items in a car can become extremely dangerous if the car stops suddenly. Tell the adult who is driving to make sure all heavy items are secured with a cargo net to protect passengers in an accident.
13. Do not play with window or door lock controls while riding in a car.
14. Keep your arms and legs inside the car while it is moving. Never stick anything out of the window while the car is moving.
15. When your parents are washing the car, remind them to clean the car safety seats as well-sticky snacks, crumbs and drinks can interfere with the buckles and chest clips.
16. Emergency numbers should be placed next to every phone in the house. Include the national toll-free poison hotline: 1-800-222-1222.
17. When it's cold outside, dress in layers in order to stay warm! Blue jeans will actually make your legs colder!
18. When the snow begins to fall, it's fun to head outside and go sledding! Always wear a helmet to prevent head injury when sledding!
19. Always wear a good hat or scarf on your head when it's cold outside! Over 50% of the body's heat loss is at the head!
20. Did you know that lying down on a sled increases the risk of head, spine and abdominal injuries? Always sit up or kneel on a sled!

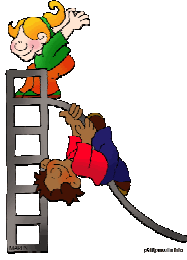


March

March is Poison Prevention Month.

1. What's a poison? A poison is something that can make you sick or can hurt you if you eat, drink, touch or smell it. Poisons come in all colors, shapes and sizes. A poison can smell and taste good, but can make you very sick.
2. It will soon be time for spring cleaning. Remind adults to take inventory of any household cleaners and make sure all are clearly marked with a "Mr. Yuk" sticker, so kids will know it's off limits.
3. Grandparents should be aware of the dangers of possible poisoning. Make sure your grandparents or other caregivers put away anything that could be poisonous before you visit.
4. Hands need to be washed more often during the cold and flu season. Wash your hands for at least 15 seconds. You can sing the Happy Birthday song twice to help you keep track of the time.
5. If visitors are expected in your home, make sure suitcases and purses are stored out of children's reach especially if they have packed medications.
6. Remind adults to never mix cleaning products or chemicals and to clean up after working around the house, car and garden. Leftover cleaners, sprays and kerosene should be properly stored immediately after use.
7. Tell adults to never remove toxic substances from their original container. They should never be poured into food storage containers because they could be easily mistaken for food and drink.
8. The kitchen, bathrooms, garage and storage areas are the rooms in your home that are most likely to invite accidental poisoning.
9. Remind adults to never leave cleaning supplies behind even if they get interrupted with a phone call or knock at the door while cleaning. Most poisonings occur while the product is being used.
10. When the weather gets warm outside, it's fun to go out and play! Lots of plants start growing berries and flowers this time of year. Many plants have flowers and berries that are poisonous if eaten. Never eat any part of a plant, flowers, berries or mushrooms that you find outside.
11. Remind adults to keep medications, hair products, skin care, and other bathroom products out of the reach of children.
12. Glue, 'White-Out', and rubber cement are all very harmful if swallowed.
13. List the Poison Control Center Phone Number (1-800-222-1222) and other emergency medical service numbers near every telephone.
14. Never leave potentially poisonous household products unattended while in use.

15. Do not play with household products or medications. Tell an adult to lock these items up. Tell an adult if potentially poisonous household products are left unattended.
16. Look for phone numbers posted next to the telephone to the poison control center and emergency medical services. If they are not posted ask an adult to post them near every phone. Talk with an adult about when to call these numbers.
17. Tell adults to always read labels, follow directions and give medicines to children based on their weights and ages.
18. Tell adults to test homes built before 1978 for lead-based paint. If the home does have lead-based paint, tell adults to cover lead paint with a sealant or hire a professional company to remove the paint. Children's hands and faces should be frequently washed as well as toys and pacifiers to reduce the risk of ingesting lead-contaminated dust.
19. Ask an adult if a carbon-monoxide detector is installed in your home in every sleeping area, and on the ceiling at least 15 feet from fuel-burning appliances. Tell an adult that space heaters, furnaces, fireplaces and wood-burning stoves should be vented properly and inspected annually.
20. Share poison information with older siblings, baby sitters, and relatives. Everyone has a part in preventing childhood poisonings.
21. Tell adults to install safety locks on cabinets and drawers that contain poisonous items.
22. Medications often look like candy but can make you very sick if you eat them. Tell adults to keep all medications in the labeled containers and out of children's reach.
23. Medication, cosmetics and other poisonous items are often found in mom or grandmother's purse. Remind adults to keep purses and other bags out of children's reach.



April

April is Falls/Playground/Sports & Recreation/School Safety Month! Most of the tips below will teach children how to be safe while at play.

1. Tell an adult to never use baby walkers on wheels. Use stationary activity centers or walker alternatives.
2. Do you have stairs in your home? Tell an adult to use safety gates at the top and bottom of stairs if there are infants or toddlers in the home.
3. Make sure there is always an adult present when you are using playground equipment. Do not use unsafe behaviors like pushing, shoving, crowding and using equipment inappropriately.
4. You should always wear appropriate safety gear when participating in sports and recreational activities. Ask an adult what you need for your sport.
5. Ask an adult how to use appropriate safety equipment, what the safety rules are, and make sure there is adult supervision during a sport or recreational activity.
6. Make sure that you drink lots of liquids while engaging in athletic activities.
7. If you ride a bus to school you should arrive at the bus stop early, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching the street, watch for cars and avoid the driver's blind spot or anywhere the bus driver cannot see you.
8. You should stay seated at all times and keep your heads and arms inside the bus while riding.
9. When exiting the bus, you should wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, exit from the front using the handrail to avoid falls, and cross the street at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
10. Wearing a helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by 85 percent and sever brain injury by 88 percent.
11. Always warm up before sports practice or a game with light stretching and jogging!
12. While at practice or during a game, make sure to stop and rest at regular intervals.
13. To guard against injuries, coached training should be limited to 12 hours a week in one sport and 20 hours a week if you play more than 1 sport.
14. If you are injured, remember RICE...Rest, Ice, Compression, and Elevation...also make sure an adult calls your pediatrician!
15. The equipment you wear while participating in sports and other activities is key to preventing injuries. Start with HELMETS: They are important for

- sports such as football, hockey, baseball, softball, biking, skateboarding, in-line skating, skiing, and snowboarding-just to name a few.
16. Always sit on swings, go down slides feet first and hold onto hand grips and railings to prevent you from falling.
 17. You should wear a mouth guard while playing a contact sport or other sport where head injury is a risk such as football, basketball, hockey, volleyball, martial arts, boxing or wrestling.
 18. If you in-line skate, skateboard, or ride a scooter, you should wear elbow and knee pads along with a helmet.
 19. Elbow and wrist guards can prevent arm and wrist fractures during sports and knee guards can shield knees from cuts and breaks.
 20. All kinds of sports, from hockey to in-line skating, use pads. There are shin, knee, elbow, wrist, chest, shoulder, hip and thigh pads. Check with your coach or doctor to find out what kinds of pads you might need for your sport.



May



May is Bicycle Safety Month and Electrical Safety Month. Most of the tips below will teach children how to be safe while riding a bike and around electricity.

1. A bicycle helmet is a necessity, not an accessory. Wear a bicycle helmet correctly and every time you ride a bike. Ask an adult if you are not sure if your helmet fits correctly.
2. Ask an adult the traffic rules of riding your bike when you ride a bike in a street.
3. You should ride your bike on sidewalks and paths until you are 10 years old and able to show an adult how well you ride and observe the basic rules of the road.
4. Over 800 people die in the United States from bicycle crashes, mostly from head injuries which is why it is so important to wear a helmet when riding a bike!
5. Studies show wearing a helmet can prevent injuries more than 85% of the time!
6. No helmets on playgrounds! Kids have died from strangulation on monkey bars when their helmets get caught. Always take your helmet off when getting off your bike.
7. Nearly 1/3 of car-bike crashes occur when a child rides a bicycle down a driveway, into the path of a car. It is important to stop, look left, look right, look left again and listen to be sure no cars are coming, before entering a street.
8. Be bright...dress right! Bright clothing can double the distance from which a driver sees a child during the day. Children who can be seen are less likely to be hit by a motor vehicle.
9. When should you wear a helmet? Helmets belong on any child on wheels...including bicycles, tricycles, skateboards, scooters, skateboards, scooters, and ATVs!
10. Riding against traffic so that cars can see you is wrong. Riding with the flow of traffic and obeying the laws of the road can help increase the odds that you'll not only be seen, but you will be safe.
11. Helmets worn too loosely or tilted backwards don't help you in a crash. Your helmet should be snug and worn level on your head to cover both the front and back of your skull.
12. Wearing headphones while riding a bike is a bad choice. By the time you hear a car behind you, it's too late to do anything about it. Stay alert and use your sense of hearing while riding.

13. Tie your shoes! Make sure you tuck away shoelaces or other strings or cords, so they don't dangle. These may get caught in the moving parts of a bike and cause a fall.
14. Bicycles are moving vehicles! By observing the laws of traffic, you can make your traffic signs. Don't put your health and safety on the line.
15. Always wear proper gear! Bikes require a helmet. Scooters require a helmet, knee pads, and elbow pads. Skateboards require a helmet, knee pads, elbow pads and wrist guards. Inline skates require a helmet, knee pads, elbow pads and wrist guards.
16. May is also National Electrical Safety Month. Tell adults to help protect you from getting hurt by placing protective covers on all unused outlets within a child's reach.
17. The #1 electrical safety rule for anyone to remember is this: Don't touch a power line or anything that's touching the power line such as a tree limb, kite string, or model airplane. NO one can tell by looking at a line whether it is energized or not and contact with a power line can be deadly.
18. Keep liquids, such as soft drinks, away from electrical items, including TVs, VCRs, DVD players and computers. They could spill and cause dangerous shocks and fires.
19. When there is lightening, stay away from trees and get inside.
20. Stay away from transformers and other ground-mounted electrical equipment.
21. Summer activities include tossing footballs and playing badminton. Always ask an adult for help if you need to retrieve a ball or anything from a power line.



June/July

June and July have been combined since school is not in session. These tips could be used during summer school, on the school website or sent home with the final report card!

June is Water Safety Month and July is Fireworks Safety and Eye Injury Prevention Month.

1. You should never be in the water without an adult at home or outside. Tell adults to empty all containers immediately after use and store appropriately.
2. You should always have an adult with you when you are in or around a swimming pool or spa at ALL times!
3. Ask an adult if they know CPR and if they keep rescue equipment, a telephone and emergency numbers near the pool.
4. If you are playing outside and see a pool or spa without a fence tell an adult immediately and do not play in this area at all.
5. Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved PFD when on a boat, near open bodies of water or when participating in water sports. Air-filled swimming aids are not considered safety devices and are not substitutes for PFDs.
6. Never dive in water less than 9 feet deep.
7. If you are 14 years old and under then you should never operate a personal watercraft.
8. If you have a swimming pool, there should be a fence around your backyard and a fence (at least 4 feet high) around the pool with a self-closing, self-latching gate. Also consider having a phone poolside in case of emergencies!
9. You should always have adults present when fireworks are being used.
10. Tell adults that a bucket or other container of water should be readily accessible when using fireworks.
11. You should “stop, drop and roll” if your clothes catch fire.
12. Never place your face or any other body part over fireworks.
13. Consumer fireworks cause 2,000 eye injuries per year. The best protection is to leave fireworks to the professionals! Your eyes are the windows to your brain...protect them!
14. Children should not handle sparklers. Although they are considered by many to be a “safe” firework for the young, they burn at very high temperatures and can easily ignite clothing.
15. Find out what the best type of eyewear is for your sport, and then wear it every time!

16. Science kits are great educational fun! Children should always have adult supervision however when handling chemicals in their science kits. Safety goggles are a must, since all it takes is a drop of a chemical in the eye to damage or even blind you!
17. When selecting sunglasses, make sure they block 99-100% of UV-A and UV-B rays. Don't be deceived by color or cost. The ability to block UV light is not dependent on the darkness of the lens or the price tag.
18. Remember to wear swimming goggles whenever and wherever you swim. Chlorine can make eyes red and puffy, and ponds and lakes may have bacteria that can get underneath contact lenses and cause inflammation of the cornea.



August

August is Gun Safety Month. Most of the tips below will teach children how to be safe around guns.

1. Tell adults that they should always store firearms unloaded and locked up, out of reach. Ammunition should also be stored locked in a separate location, out of reach.
2. Tell adults to use safety devices such as gun locks, lock boxes or gun safes for every gun kept in the home.
3. Ask an adult to talk to you about the dangers of guns. You should never touch or play with guns, and IMMEDIATELY tell an adult if you find a gun.
4. Tell adults that they should check with neighbors, friends or relatives—or adults in any other homes where you may visit—to ensure they follow safe storage practices if firearms are in their homes.
5. Tell adults that keys, or combination to gun locks and ammo boxes, should be stored out of reach.
6. Never show a gun to a friend. Never show or tell friends or brothers and sisters where a gun is stored in your house!
7. By telling your teacher, guidance, counselor, or a parent when you see a gun, you could be a hero and save lives!
8. If your friend wants to show you a gun, say NO!
9. BB guns, pellet guns and other non-powder guns should be stored the same way as firearms.
10. Protect your back! Pack your backpack light and always use both shoulder straps since carrying on just one shoulder can damage your spine! Tell adults to help you organize your backpack in compartments, so that heavier items are closest to the center of your back.
11. If you walk or ride your bike to school, make sure you practice walking or riding to school with your parents before school starts. Look for safe places to go along the way in case of an emergency.
12. While walking, riding your bike to school or waiting at the bus stop, watch out for cars that may see you! Stay safe by walking, riding or standing on the sidewalk away from busy roads.
13. Cross streets properly and always wear a helmet when you ride a bike on your way to school!



September



September is Pedestrian Safety Month. It is also Children's Eye Health and Safety Month. The tips below address pedestrian and eye health/safety!

1. Cross the street at the corner or at a crosswalk if there is one, and obey all traffic signals.
2. Walk on a sidewalk; if there is no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the street, facing oncoming traffic.
3. Walk with an adult until you are at least 10 years old.
4. Only cross in front of a school bus when the driver says it is safe. Do not cross behind the bus or where the driver can't see you.
5. Hold an adult's hand when you cross the street. Look left, right and left again before you cross and keep looking both ways until you reach the other side.
6. If you walk when it is dark, wear light-colored clothing or clothing with reflective material so drivers can see you. A flashlight is also a good idea.
7. If a toy or pet goes out into the street, ask an adult for help getting it back.
8. When you are outside playing, play in a backyard or playground away from the street or parking lots.
9. Do not play in driveways, streets, parking lots and unfenced yards next to streets.
10. You should cross the street at least 10 feet in front of a school bus and wait for adults on the same side of the street as the school bus's loading/unloading zone.
11. You should always wear retro-reflective materials and carry a flashlight at dawn and dusk.
12. You should walk facing traffic, as far to the left as possible, when sidewalks are not available.

13. You should always look left, right, and left again when crossing a street and to continue looking as they cross. You should never run into the street.

14. For good eye health, you should always wear proper protective eye gear when playing sports.

15. If you spill something in your eye, an adult should flush your eye with water for at least 20 minutes and contact the local poison control center.

16. If your eye is hit with a blunt object, an adult should examine your eye and look for bleeding. If your eye is bleeding or you cannot open it, seek immediate medical attention.

17. If your eye is injured by a sharp object, do NOT press on the eyelid or try to remove the sharp object. Let an adult cover your eye and seek immediate medical attention.

18. If you wear glasses, you will probably need special goggles when playing sports! You shouldn't wear regular glasses when on the court or field.

19. Make sure you store and clean contact lenses in properly prepared, sterile solutions. Never wear contact lenses beyond the time limits recommended by manufacturers.

20. Swings are part of almost every playground...like slides and monkey bars. Yet, 200,000 kids get hurt on playgrounds each year. Ask an adult to show you how to safely use a swing. Make sure you hold onto slides with both hands!

21. What's got wheels, is low to the ground, and moves? A skateboard! But watch out...about 300 kids a week go to the hospital emergency room with skateboard-related injuries. Helmets and other protective gear for your body—wrists, elbows, knees—can help cushion falls.



October



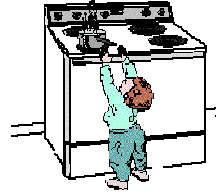
October is Residential Fire Month. Most of the tips below will teach students about how to prevent fires in their homes. There are also tips regarding Halloween safety included.

1. In case of a fire, have a good meeting place! Families should regularly practice fire drills so children learn escape routes.
2. Plan and practice several fire escape routes from each room of the home and identify an outside meeting place. Practicing an escape plan may help frightened and confused children escape to safety.
3. You should never play with matches, gasoline, lighters or any other flammable materials. If you see them you should tell an adult immediately.
4. Ask an adult if you have smoke alarms in your home on every level and in every sleeping area. Ask adults to test them once a month, replace the batteries at least once a year (unless the batteries are designed for longer life), and replace the alarms every 10 years. Ten-year lithium alarms are also available and do not require an annual battery change.
5. Ask adults if they knew there were different types of fire alarms. For the best protection against different types of fires, consider installing both ionization alarms (better at sensing flaming fires) and photoelectric alarms (better at sensing slow, smoky fires).
6. Ask an adult what to plan and practice several fire escape routes with you from each room of the home, and to identify an outside meeting place. This will help you be less scared and more prepared in case of a fire.
7. Stay away from cooking and heating appliances. Tell adults to use back burners and turn pot handles to the back of the stove when cooking.
8. Tell adults to never leave a burning candle unattended and to place them in a safe location away from combustible materials and where children or pets cannot tip them over.
9. Space heaters should be kept at least 3 feet from curtains, papers, furniture and other flammable materials. Remind adults to always turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
10. Tell adults that your water heater thermostat should be set to 120 degrees Fahrenheit to prevent scalding burns.
11. The area around your fireplace and chimney should be cleaned after each use. Debris too close to the fireplace could cause a fire. Adults should check the flue for obstructions such as birds' nests, and always trim any overhanging branches or large trees near the chimney.

12. As the weather gets cooler and your family begins using the fireplace, remind adults to use a sturdy fireplace screen and never overload the fireplace with too many logs.
13. Adults should never leave a fire in your fireplace unattended and always make sure the fire is extinguished before you go to bed. Children should never be around a fire without the presence of an adult.
14. Wood for a fireplace should be neatly stacked and covered outside. Make sure it is stored away from the house and off the ground.
15. In case you ever have to call the fire department or 911, make sure you know the house address and how to give clear directions to the house, if needed.
16. To protect your family from a house fire, never drape any items over lamps—especially clothing items or blankets! These items can quickly catch on fire!
17. Never stick anything into electrical sockets or play with cords! In addition, make sure all unused sockets are protected with plastic coverings.
18. If there is a fire in your house, feel doors with the back of your hand to see if they are hot and stay low to the ground to avoid smoke.
19. To be safe on Halloween, dress in costumes that are bright and reflective. Also, wear shoes that fit well and costumes that are short enough to prevent tripping and that you won't get tangled up in. Adding reflective tape or striping to your costumes and trick-or-treat bags will help cars see you better.
20. In case you get lost on Halloween night, make sure an adult helps you secure emergency identification information (name, address, phone number) discreetly within your costume or on a small bracelet.
21. When shopping for Halloween costumes, wigs, and accessories, consider purchasing items that are flame resistant. Tell your parents to find hypoallergenic makeup or a decorative hat instead of a mask which will limit or block your eyesight.
22. Use flashlights with fresh batteries while you are trick-or-treating!
23. You should always be accompanied by a parent while trick-or-treating. Make sure you know your home phone number and how to call 9-1-1 in case of an emergency.
24. After trick-or-treating, have your parents check your treats before you eat anything. Tell them to look for opened wrappers or candies that may be choking hazards for small children.



November



November is Railroad Safety Month. Some of the tips below teach students how to be safe around railroads. Others refer to safety in the kitchen around the holidays.

1. Cross tracks ONLY at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings and always look both ways before crossing the tracks.
2. Never attempt to hop aboard railroad equipment at any time. A slip of the foot can cost you a limb or your life.
3. Do not walk on railroad tracks...they are private property and walking or playing on them is illegal.
4. Observe all railroad warning signs and signals. Ask an adult to explain what each sign means.
5. Tell adults to never try to out run a train and to stay behind the indicated marks for safety.
6. Never try to cross the tracks if a train is coming. Trains are very large and heavy, and take a long time to stop!
7. Obey all signs and signals. Listen for a warning bell and train whistles. Watch for flashing lights.
8. When a train is coming, stand at least 10 giant steps away from the tracks.
9. If one train passes, make sure another one isn't coming. Trains can come from any direction at any time on another track.
10. Always get off your bike and walk it across the tracks. Don't forget to wear your helmet when you ride your bike.
11. Walking or playing on railroad tracks is dangerous.
12. Always stay at least 3 feet away from the stove while adults are cooking so you won't get burned.
13. Tell adults to face pot handles towards the middle or back of the stove so that you can't reach them and cause a hot pot to fall on you.
14. Never turn the knobs on a stove or oven without the supervision of an adult.
15. Tell adults to keep knives, glasses and scissors out of reach.
16. Never place anything on top of a stove! Stoves can be hot even if they have been turned off.
17. Never play in the kitchen while adults are cooking. You could fall or knock something off the counter or stove and get hurt.
18. Often times, cleaning supplies are kept under the kitchen sink. Tell adults to label these supplies as poisons and never drink or play with any of them.



December

December is Toy Safety/Home Safety month. Most of the tips listed below will help children play safely with toys and be safe at home.

1. Keep appliance cords out of children's reach, especially near heat and water.
2. Do not stick anything into electrical outlets, you may get electrocuted!
3. Tell adults to use Mylar balloons instead of latex balloons. Children under 8 years old can choke or suffocate on un-inflated or broken balloons.
4. Tell adults that when selecting toys, they should consider your age, interests, and skill level. They should follow age and safety recommendations
5. Make sure you play with your toys in a safe environment. Riding toys should not be used near stairs, traffic, or swimming pools.
6. You should always have an adult supervising when you are playing. Play is even more fun when adults play with you rather than watch from a distance.
7. Turn off all holiday lights when you and your family leave the house or go to bed for the night.
8. In the United States, more than 3 billion toys and games are sold annually. Don't play with toys that have loose or missing parts, sharp or broken edges, peeling paint, and choking hazards such as long strings or cords.
9. Young children should never play with toys that have strings, straps, or cords longer than 7 inches. These strings can unintentionally strangle young children, especially babies. Watch out for your younger brother or sister!
10. If you get a new bike, scooter, skateboard, or pair of inline skates, make sure you wear a helmet, kneepads, elbow pads, and wrist guards (for skates).
11. Always be aware of your surroundings when in parking lots and large shopping malls.
12. Each year, approximately 15 children under age 14 years die from a toy-related incident. And approximately 217,000 toy-related injuries are treated in hospital emergency rooms each year.

13. Learn your contact information including your name, address, and phone number so if you get lost while holiday shopping you can contact a store clerk or police officer.
14. Make sure your family puts the Christmas tree away from heat sources such as radiators and fireplaces. You don't want your big tree to catch on fire!
15. Consider giving your friends or family a "Safety Package" for Christmas! Put together a gift basket including items such as a fire extinguisher, smoke detectors, batteries, flashlights, a first-aid kit, a carbon monoxide detector, or even a second floor escape ladder.
16. Be very careful around candles and make sure they can't tip over and start a fire. Only adults should use matches to light candles!
17. After playing with your toys put them away so that no one trips or falls because the toys are left on the floor.
18. Don't leave outdoor toys in a place where they can get rained or snowed on. Toys will get rusty and damaged which can be dangerous!