

KEEP ME SAFE
6-12 MONTHS

THE LITTLE explorer

Children naturally want to explore the world around them. This curiosity is the foundation of learning to critically think and problem solve. But this same curiosity can innocently get children into unsafe situations. Young children don't have the ability to know what is safe or unsafe; they just see places to explore and things to discover.

If you really want to know the child's view of the world, get down on the floor and look around at the child's eye level. You may be surprised at

what you "could get into". The desire to explore drives children to "get into things" that you may have thought were well out of reach. This natural desire to explore is great for brain development and learning, but it also opens the door to innocently putting a child in an unsafe situation.



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WHAT I SEE IS WHAT I WANT.

- Things on the floor.
- Things to reach for.
- Things to climb on.

I WANT TO LEARN ABOUT THINGS IN MY WORLD. I WANT TO TASTE, TOUCH AND SMELL THINGS.

- I put everything in my mouth.
- I grab everything I can reach; I want to touch it.
- I stretch to get whatever I see or want to see better.
- I crawl and explore quicker than you think. Keep an eye on me.
- If it makes a noise I want to know more about it. I will put it in my mouth to learn more.

I CRAWL AND EXPLORE
QUICKER THAN YOU THINK.
KEEP AN EYE ON ME.

KEEP ME SAFE WHILE I LEARN AND EXPLORE:

- Remove tablecloths to keep me from pulling things down on myself.
- Make sure I cannot reach cords to pull objects down on myself.
- Remove cords (i.e. toys and horizontal blinds) that could cause me accidental strangulation.
- Get down on the floor and look around and see what I see:
 - Remove small objects I can place in my mouth and choke.
 - Look for sharp edges and protect me with safety corner and edge guards.
 - Cover outlets that inspire me to poke and prod into tiny holes that interest me.
 - Look for cords and ropes that put me at risk for accidental strangulation.
- Put latches on cupboards and drawers to keep me, the little explorer, out.

THE DESIRE TO EXPLORE TO
LEARN CAN GET ME INTO
UNSAFE SITUATIONS.

- Put protectors on sharp corners to prevent unwanted bumps and bruises.
- Keep noise making, intriguing plastic bags (garbage, shopping, and sandwich bags) out of my reach to prevent suffocation.
- Keep balloons out of my reach (inflated or uninflated). I will put the balloon in my mouth and if it pops, I can suffocate on a piece that becomes lodged in my throat.
- Keep doors closed to prevent my curiosity from taking me to unsafe territories.
- Turn pot and pan handles on stove to back wall to prevent me from grabbing things that will burn me.
- Keep your purse out of my reach. Your purse has so many tiny objects for me to explore and potentially choke on.
- Make sure my toys are unbreakable and strong enough to withstand chewing.
- Be sure my safety seat is correctly installed in the back seat of all vehicles.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

- Never underestimate what I can reach for and get as I explore things in my world.
- In case help is needed, have emergency numbers written down and easily accessible.
- The best way for me to be safe is to have a safety alert adult watching me to prevent me from hurting myself.

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