[SANFORD CHILDREN'S SAFETY CENTER]



As children grow, so does their curiosity, and their world opens up with new places to explore. This can lead to dangerous situations. Preschoolers are gaining many new skills and growing in independency and can easily become out of sight and out of mind as they are playing. Children from age 3 to 5 can begin to learn about safety, but they do not always understand or remember safety rules. Although children of this age can repeat safety rules when asked, they are not always able to apply the rules. Children of this age still need adult supervision to keep them safe during their many adventures.

I HAVE A CURIOUS MIND AND AN AGILE BODY THAT TAKES ME ON MANY ADVENTURES TO MANY PLACES:

- I am naturally curious and want to discover the world. I love learning.
- I can start to understand rules, but I forget to follow them (especially when I am focused on playing).
- I am physically capable to turn knobs, climb stairs, jump and move.
- I can now learn to ride trikes and bikes.
 I can go places.



I AM BUSY EXPLORING THINGS AND PLACES:

- I am oblivious to dangers around me.
- My imagination and fantasies take me to many places; some may be unsafe places.
- I love to pretend I am many things and different people (a pirate, a princess, a mom, a dad, etc).
- I love to hide.

PROTECT ME FROM MY CURIOSITY.

KEEP ME SAFE DURING MY LEARNING ADVENTURES:

- ☐ Set up and consistently enforce rules and limits to help me learn about dangers.
- ☐ Watch me play, especially when I am playing outside.
- Never leave me alone in the car, house, or yard.
- ☐ Check my outdoor playground equipment. Make sure there are no loose parts or sharp edges.
- ☐ Explain to me why it is important to stay out of traffic. Remind me not to play in the street or run after balls that roll into the street.
- When I am learning to ride my tricycle or bike keep me on the sidewalk and away from the street. Watch me carefully.
- ☐ Provide me a good-fitting helmet and safety gear while riding my trike or bike.
- ☐ Do not permit me to cross the street alone. I am not ready to cross the street without supervision until age 10 or older.
- ☐ Keep me safe by water. Teach me to swim, but still watch me at all times when I am in or around water (this includes kiddie pools).
- $lue{}$ Teach me how to be safe around strangers.
- □ Keep me in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until I reach the top height or weight limit allowed by my car seat's manufacturer. When I get too big for my car seat, give me a booster seat until I am 4'9".
- ☐ Protect me from my curiosity. If you have a gun, make sure you store it unloaded in a locked cabinet. Lock the ammunition separately from the gun.

- ☐ Remind me to not run with things in my mouth; especially suckers.
- ☐ I am fascinated by cigarette lighters and matches. Put both well out of my sight and reach.
- ☐ Turn pot and pan handles on stove to back wall to prevent me from grabbing things that will burn me.
- ☐ Attach a set of chimes to the door to indicate if I have gone outside.
- ☐ I am very curious about how things work. Keep me away from, lawn mowers, garage doors, weed wackers, etc.
- ☐ Limit my time in the sun. Put a hat and 30 SPF sunscreen on me before I go outside.
- ☐ I am curious and like animals; teach me to ask if it is OK to pet a dog or other animal before touching it.
- ☐ Remove doors from old refrigerators to prevent me from locking myself inside while I am pretending to hide when I play.

EVERY DAY IS FILLED WITH ADVENTURES TO LEARN ABOUT MY WORLD. BUT I CAN BE OBLIVIOUS TO THE DANGERS I MAY ENCOUNTER AS I EXPLORE.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

- I am physically capable of climbing, jumping and running. When you combine my physical capabilities with a very imaginative mind, I can innocently put myself in an unsafe situation while I set out on my adventures to explore the world around me.
- 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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