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*Listening, learning,
and living together:
it's the science of life.*

Childproofing Your Home¹

Donna Davis²

As adults, we often don't see the dangers that lurk in our homes for babies and toddlers. As new parents, one of the first tasks we take on is "baby-proofing" our home.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, about 2.5 million children are injured or killed by hazards in the home each year (United States Consumer Products Safety Commission, n.d.)! However, armed with information, a little time, and a relatively small budget, a few simple child-safety devices can help parents and care providers prevent most accidents.

For example, most parents begin with the safety latches for kitchen and bathroom cabinets to protect curious toddlers from access to medicines, household cleaners, and sharp objects. Doorknob covers and locks, safety gates, and window guards will also keep toddlers away from dangerous places.

Smoke detectors throughout the home are essential safety devices to protect the family from fire deaths and injuries. Carbon monoxide detectors outside bedrooms can also prevent unintentional poisoning. Also, consider cutting window blind cords and replacing them with safety tassels and inner cord stops to help prevent children from

1. This document is FAR0085, one of a series of the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. First published March 2009. In the interest of time or clarity, the broadcast version of this script may have been modified. Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
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strangling in blind cord loops. And, while it's almost hard to find a phone with a cord any more, cordless phones are a must for busy parents. A cordless phone can allow parents to "stay connected" without losing sight of those ever-moving and curious bundles of joy.

For more information on childproofing your home, visit the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov>, or visit our site at <http://familyalbumradio.org>.

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