

# 1½ – 3½ Years

## Inquisitive and Invincible

Your child is now actively exploring their environment. They want to do everything without parental help! They are very curious and are always on the move. Your child will begin to run and jump without fear of heights or danger as they become more fascinated with the world around them.



### AT HOME

#### Prevent choking and falls when feeding

- Always use a 5-point harness in the high chair.
- Do not allow your child to eat while walking or running around.
- Always watch your child while they are eating.

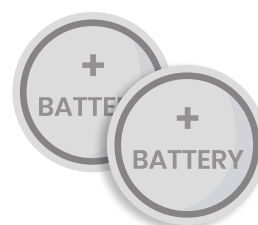
#### Keep your child safe while sleeping

- If your child starts to climb out the cot, this means it may be time to move them into a bed or mattress on the floor.
- Bunk beds are not recommended for children under 9 years of age.
- Install night-lights to allow your child to confidently find the toilet.
- Secure all curtain and blind cords up high and out of reach with safety devices.
- Check all smoke alarms monthly.

#### Setting up your home safely

- Use safety products to reduce the risk of hazards in the home, including furniture anchoring devices, safety gates, power point covers and stove guards.
- Store button batteries and products containing them up high out of reach of children and ensure battery compartments are secure. If you suspect a child has ingested a button battery, call the **Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26** immediately.

- Store poisons (e.g. cleaning products, pesticides, medications, e-cigarette devices and e-liquids) and handbags up high and out of reach of children. If you think a child has ingested a poison, immediately call the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26.
- Always stay with your child when bathing. If distractions occur, like the phone or doorbell ringing, take your child with you.
- Make sure the hot water delivery temperature for your bathroom taps is set to 50°C and smoke alarms are installed throughout your home. Ensure your child can not reach hot cooking pots, kettles, or heaters and that hot drinks are kept out of reach.
- Always check the temperature of the water before bathing your toddler. The water should be no more than 38°C. Fill the bath with cold water first, then add hot water and mix well. Run cold water through the tap last so the tap isn't hot.
- If your child sustains a burn or scald, remove clothing and nappies from the affected area and immediately run the affected area under cool running water for 20 minutes. Never use ice, butter or oil on the burn.
- Complete CPR and first aid training and update these skills regularly. Visit [kidsafevic.com.au](https://kidsafevic.com.au) for more information on first aid.



**Store button  
batteries up  
high and out  
of reach of  
children**



## AT PLAY

### Reduce the risk of injury from toys and playground equipment

- Choose play equipment that meets Australian Standards and is suitable for your child's age and level of development.
- Install playground equipment away from hazards such as hard paths and garden edging.
- Make sure soft fall surfacing like tanbark is put around and under equipment to a minimum depth of 30cm.
- Only buy toys that are suitable for the age and development of your child. Avoid toys with button batteries or ensure the batteries are not accessible.

### Reduce the risk of drowning

- Safety barriers are required for all pools and spas with a depth greater than 30cm. Regularly check and maintain your barrier and gate to ensure they are in proper working order.
- Anything that can hold a few centimetres of water can be a drowning hazard, including swimming pools, dams, buckets and pet bowls. Always keep your toddler within arm's reach when in or around water.

### Keeping children safe around animals

- Supervise your child closely when they are playing and interacting with animals. If you can't supervise, make sure they are separated with appropriate barriers.



## OUT AND ABOUT

### Keeping children safe in the car

- Use an approved rearward-facing or forward-facing child car restraint that is correctly fitted to the vehicle, and adjusted to fit them properly.
- Children should remain in a rearward-facing restraint until they no longer fit their restraint's size limit. Restraints with extended rear facing capabilities (rear facing until approximately 2-3 years of age) are available to purchase and use in Australia.
- Have a professional install or check your child car restraint. Our Safe Seats, Safe Kids program uses experienced, accredited fitters to provide free fitting and checking days across Victoria – visit [safeseatssafekids.com.au](http://safeseatssafekids.com.au) to book your appointment.
- Never leave children unattended in the car. The temperature inside a car can be 20 – 30° hotter than outside.

### Making your driveway Kidsafe

- Make sure children do not play on the driveway, footpath, road or in a carpark.
- Always supervise children around cars and driveways.
- Always walk around the car and check before moving it.

### Keeping children safe around roads and on wheels

- A correctly fitted and secured helmet should always be worn when riding a tricycle, scooter, bicycle or any other wheeled device.
- Take your child out of the car on the kerb side away from traffic.
- Always hold your child's hand near the road and teach them safe pedestrian behaviours such as **'Stop, Look, Listen and Think'**.

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