

During this stage your toddler will become increasingly mobile and start to walk. They will also become very curious – trying to open cupboards, turning switches on and off and seeking out items they know exist, even if they are hidden from view! At this age your toddler will want to ‘test’ everything by putting it in their mouth. Toddlers often imitate the actions of adults, so it is important to model safe behaviour.



### AT HOME

#### Reduce the risk of burns and drowning when bathing:

- 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.
- Always stay with your toddler when bathing and never leave an older child to supervise a toddler in the bath. If distractions occur, like the phone or doorbell ringing, take your toddler with you.

#### Prevent burns, choking and falls when feeding:

- Secure your toddler in their high chair with a 5 point harness.
- Grate or cook hard foods and avoid those such as popcorn, nuts, whole grapes and corn chips.
- Keep hot food and drinks out of reach and never hold a hot drink near your toddler. Always check the milk temperature before giving it to your toddler if bottle or cup feeding.
- Always read medication labels carefully.

#### Keep your toddler safe when sleeping and dressing

- Choose clothing that has the low fire danger label.
- Dress baby appropriately for the room temperature – comfortably warm, not too hot, not too cold.
- Remove bibs, beanies and dummy ribbons before putting your toddler down to sleep. Make sure the cot or bassinet is away from curtain and blind cords or mobiles.
- Adjust the cot mattress so it is at the lowest level to prevent your child climbing and falling.

#### Setting up your home safely

- Crawl around the house to view hazards from a toddler's perspective, and use our [Home Safety Checklist](#) to help guide you through common hazards in the home.
- 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 toddlers and ensure battery compartments are secure. If you suspect a toddler 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 toddlers. If you think a toddler has ingested a poison, immediately call the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26.
- Make sure the hot water delivery temperature for your bathroom taps is set to 50°C and smoke alarms are installed throughout your home. Make sure your toddler can not reach hot cooking pots, kettles or heaters.
- If your toddler 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](http://kidsafevic.com.au) for more information on first aid.



## AT PLAY

### Reduce the risk of poisoning, burns, falls and driveway runovers

- Create a safe play area for your toddler away from heaters, stairs, driveways and other hazards. A playpen or safety gate can help restrict access to hazards.
- Actively supervise toddlers around cars - make sure you communicate with other adults and know who is watching your toddler at all times.
- Choose toys that are age appropriate, durable and washable, and have no broken or missing parts. Avoid toys with button batteries or ensure the batteries are not accessible.
- Supervise your toddler on play equipment and choose equipment that is appropriate for their age and level of development.
- Install playground equipment or cubbies 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.
- Check your garden for any poisonous plants and remove them, or place them in a hanging basket out of reach.
- Remember to be sun smart and always **Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide**.
- Always supervise children around animals. If you can't supervise, make sure they are separated with appropriate barriers.

### Reduce the risk of drowning

- Anything that can hold a few centimetres of water can be a drowning hazard. Actively supervise toddlers within arm's reach around all sources of water. Empty paddle pools, buckets, bins and baths after every use.
- 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.



## OUT & ABOUT

### Keeping toddlers 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°C hotter than the outside temperature.

### Reduce the risk of injury when using nursery equipment

- Use a pram or stroller that meets Australian Standards, and place all bags under the pram to avoid it tipping. Always use the harness provided and watch for fingers that can become trapped in hinges.
- If you use a baby sling or carrier, make sure to follow the **TICKS rule** - **tight**, your baby's face is **in view** at all times and **close** enough to kiss, **keep** baby's chin off your **chest**, and support baby's back.

Install playground equipment or cubbies away from hazards



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