

## **Bright Futures Parent Handout 6 Month Visit**

Here are some suggestions from Bright Futures experts that may be of value to your family.

#### Feeding Your Baby

- Most babies have doubled their birth weight.
- Your baby's growth will slow down.
- If you are still breastfeeding, that's great! Continue as long as you both like.
- If you are formula feeding, use an ironfortified formula.
- You may begin to feed your baby solid food when your baby is ready.
- · Some of the signs your baby is ready for
  - Opens mouth for the spoon.
  - · Sits with support.
  - · Good head and neck control.
  - Interest in foods you eat.

#### Starting New Foods

- Introduce new foods one at a time.
  - · Iron-fortified cereal
- Good sources of iron include
  - · Red meat
- Introduce fruits and vegetables after your baby eats iron-fortified cereal or pureed meats well.
  - Offer 1-2 tablespoons of solid food 2-3 times per day.
- Avoid feeding your baby too much by following the baby's signs of fullness.
  - Leaning back
  - · Turning away
- · Do not force your baby to eat or finish foods.
  - It may take 10-15 times of giving your baby a food to try before she will like it.
- Avoid foods that can cause allergies peanuts, tree nuts, fish, and shellfish.
- To prevent choking
  - · Only give your baby very soft, small bites of finger foods.
  - · Keep small objects and plastic bags away from your baby.

### How Your Family Is Doing

- Call on others for help.
- Encourage your partner to help care for your baby.
- Ask us about helpful resources if you are alone.
- Invite friends over or join a parent group.

- Choose a mature, trained, and responsible FUNCTIONING babysitter or caregiver.
  - You can talk with us about your child care choices.

#### **Healthy Teeth**

- Many babies begin to cut teeth.
- · Use a soft cloth or toothbrush to clean each tooth with water only as it comes in.
- · Ask us about the need for fluoride.
- Do not give a bottle in bed.
  - Do not prop the bottle.
  - · Have regular times for your baby to eat. Do not let him eat all day.

#### Your Baby's Development

- Place your baby so she is sitting up and can look around.
- Talk with your baby by copying the sounds your baby makes.
- · Look at and read books together.
- Play games such as peekaboo, patty-cake, and so big.
- Offer active play with mirrors, floor gyms, and colorful toys to hold.
- If your baby is fussy, give her safe toys to hold and put in her mouth and make sure she is getting regular naps and playtimes.

#### Crib/Playpen

NFANT DEVEL

- Put your baby to sleep on her back.
  - In a crib that meets current safety standards, with no drop-side rail and slats no more than 23/8 inches apart. Find more information on the Consumer Product Safety Commission Web site at www.cpsc.gov.
  - If your crib has a drop-side rail, keep it up and locked at all times. Contact the crib company to see if there is a device to keep the drop-side rail from falling down.
  - · Keep soft objects and loose bedding such as comforters, pillows, bumper pads, and toys out of the crib.
  - Lower your baby's mattress all the way.
  - If using a mesh playpen, make sure the openings are less than 1/4 inch apart.

#### Safety

- · Use a rear-facing car safety seat in the back seat in all vehicles, even for very short trips.
- Never put your baby in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger air bag.
- Don't leave your baby alone in the tub or high places such as changing tables, beds,
- While in the kitchen, keep your baby in a high chair or playpen.
- · Do not use a baby walker.
- · Place gates on stairs.
- Close doors to rooms where your baby could be hurt. like the bathroom.
- · Prevent burns by setting your water heater so the temperature at the faucet is 120°F or lower.
- Turn pot handles inward on the stove.
- Do not leave hot irons or hair care products plugged in.
- · Never leave your baby alone near water or in bathwater, even in a bath seat or ring.
- Always be close enough to touch your
- Lock up poisons, medicines, and cleaning supplies; call Poison Help if your baby eats

## What to Expect at Your **Baby's 9 Month Visit** We will talk about

- · Disciplining your baby
- · Introducing new foods and establishing a routine
- · Helping your baby learn
- · Car seat safety
- · Safety at home

Poison Help: 1-800-222-1222

Child safety seat inspection:

1-866-SEATCHECK; seatcheck.org

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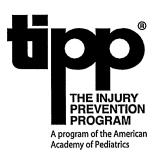
## American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



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# **6 TO 12 MONTHS**

## **Safety for Your Child**

Did you know that hundreds of children younger than 1 year die every year in the United States because of injuries — most of which can be prevented?

Often, injuries happen because parents are not aware of what their children can do. Your child is a fast learner and will suddenly be able to *roll over, crawl, sit,* and *stand.* Your child may *climb* before walking, or *walk* with support months before you expect. Your child will *grasp* at almost anything and reach things he or she could not reach before.

#### **Falls**

Because of your child's new abilities, he or she will fall often. Protect your child from injury. Use gates on stairways and doors. Install operable window guards on all windows above the first floor. Remove sharp-edged or hard furniture from the room where your child plays.

**Do not use a baby walker.** Your child may tip it over, fall out of it, or fall down the stairs in it. Baby walkers allow children to get to places where they can pull hot foods or heavy objects down on themselves.





At 6 to 12 months children grab at everything. NEVER leave cups of hot coffee on tables or counter edges. And NEVER carry hot liquids or food near your child or while holding your child. He or she could get burned. Also, if your child is left to crawl or walk around stoves, wall or floor heaters, or other hot appliances, he or she is likely to get burned. A safer place for your child while you are cooking, eating, or unable to provide your full attention is the playpen, crib, or stationary activity center, or buckled into a high chair.



If your child does get burned, put cold water on the burned area immediately. Keep the burned area in cold water for a few minutes to cool it off. Then cover the burn loosely with a dry bandage or clean cloth. Call your doctor for all burns. To protect your child from tap water scalds, the hottest temperature at the faucet should be no more than 120°F. In many cases you can adjust your water heater.

Make sure you have a working smoke alarm on every level of your home, especially in furnace and sleeping areas. Test the alarms every month. It is best to use smoke alarms that use long-life batteries, but if you do not, change the batteries at least once a year.

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#### **Drowning**

At this age your child loves to play in water. Empty all the water from a bathtub, pail, or any container of water immediately after use. Keep the door to the bathroom closed. **NEVER leave your child alone in or near a bathtub, pail of water, wading or swimming pool, or any other water, even for a moment.** Drowning can happen in less than 2 inches of water. Knowing how to swim does NOT mean your child is safe in or near water. Stay within an arm's length of your child around water.

If you have a swimming pool, now is the time to **install a fence** that separates the house from the pool. The pool should be fenced in on all 4 sides. Most children drown when they wander out of the house and fall into a pool that is not fenced off from the house. Be prepared — install a fence around your pool now, before your child begins to walk!



## **Poisoning and Choking**

Your child will explore the world by *putting anything and everything into his or her mouth.* NEVER leave small objects or balloons in your child's reach, even for a moment. Don't feed your child hard pieces of food such as hot dogs, raw carrots, grapes, peanuts, or popcorn. Cut all of his or her food into thin slices to prevent choking.

Be prepared if your child starts to choke. Learn how to save the life of a choking child. Ask your doctor to recommend the steps you need to take.

Children will put everything into their mouths, even if it doesn't taste good. Many ordinary things in your house can be poisonous to your child. Be sure to keep household products such as cleaners, chemicals, and medicines up, up, and away, completely out of sight and reach. Never store lye drain cleaners in your home. Use safety latches or locks on drawers and cupboards. Remember, your child doesn't understand or remember "no" while exploring.



If your child does eat something that could be poisonous, call the Poison Help number at 1-800-222-1222 immediately. Do not make your child vomit.

## Strangulation and Suffocation

Place your baby's crib away from windows. **Cords from window blinds and draperies can strangle your child.**Use cordless window coverings, or if this is not possible, tie cords high and out of reach. Do not knot cords together.

**Plastic wrappers and bags** form a tight seal if placed over the mouth and nose and may suffocate your child. Keep them away from your child.

## And Remember Car Safety

Car crashes are a great danger to your child's life and health. Most injuries and deaths caused by car crashes can be prevented by the use of car safety seats EVERY TIME your child is in the car. All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car safety seat until they are at least 2 years of age or until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car safety seat's manufacturer. A rear-facing car safety seat should NEVER be placed in front of a passenger air bag. Your child, besides being much safer in a car safety seat, will behave better so you can pay attention



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to your driving. The safest place for all infants and children to ride is in the back seat.

Do not leave your child alone in a car. Keep vehicles and their trunks locked. Children who are left in a car can die of heat stroke because temperatures can reach deadly levels in minutes.

Remember, the biggest threat to your child's life and health is an injury.

The information in this publication should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on the individual facts and circumstances.

## Baby Walkers: What You Need to Know

Baby walkers send thousands of children to hospitals every year. Read about why they are not safe and what you can do.

#### Children in baby walkers can

- Roll down the stairs—which often causes broken bones and severe head injuries. This is how most children get hurt in baby walkers.
- Get burned—a child can reach higher in a walker. It is now easier for a
  child to pull a tablecloth off a table and spill hot coffee, grab pot handles
  off the stove, and reach radiators, fireplaces, or space heaters.
- Drown—a child can fall into a pool or bathtub while in a walker.
- Be poisoned—reaching high objects is easier in a walker.

Most walker injuries happen while adults are watching. Parents or caregivers simply cannot respond quickly enough. A child in a walker can move more than 3 feet in 1 second! That is why walkers are never safe to use, even with an adult close by.

#### There are no benefits to baby walkers

Many parents think walkers will help their children learn to walk. But they don't. In fact, walkers can actually delay when a child starts to walk

#### What you can do

- Throw out your baby walkers! Also, be sure that there are no walkers
  wherever your child is being cared for, such as child care centers or in
  someone else's home.
- · Try something just as enjoyable but safer, like
  - Stationary activity centers—they look like walkers but have no wheels. They usually have seats that rotate, tip, and bounce.
  - Play yards or playpens—these are great safety zones for children as they learn to sit, crawl, or walk.
  - High chairs—older children often enjoy sitting up in a high chair and playing with toys on the tray.

#### About safety standards

New safety standards for baby walkers have been in place since 1997. They are now made wider so they cannot fit through most doors, or they have brakes to stop them at the edge of a step. However, these improvements will not prevent all injuries from walkers. They still have wheels, so children can still move fast and reach higher.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has called for a ban on the manufacture and sale of baby walkers with wheels.

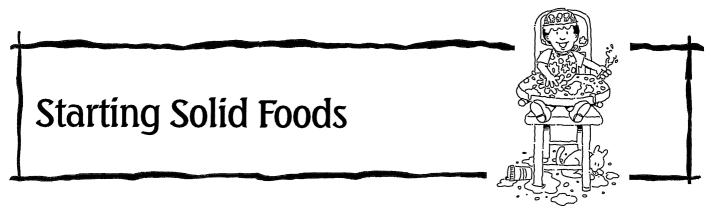
#### Remember

One way you can keep your child safe from injury is to throw away your baby walker.

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Rice, oatmeal, or barley? What infant cereal or other food will be on the menu for your baby's first solid meal? And have you set a date?

At this point, you may have a plan or are confused because you have received too much advice from family and friends with different opinions. To help you prepare for your baby's transition to solid food, read on for more information from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

#### When can my baby begin solid foods?

The following are some guidelines from the AAP book *Nutrition: What Every Parent Needs to Know.* Remember that each child's readiness depends on his own rate of development.

- Can he hold his head up? Your baby should be able to sit in a high chair, feeding seat, or infant seat with good head control.
- Does he open his mouth when food comes his way? Babies may be ready if they watch you eating, reach for your food, and seem eager to be fed.
- Can he move food from a spoon into his throat? If you offer a spoon of rice cereal and he pushes it out of his mouth and it dribbles onto his chin, he may not have the ability to move it to the back of his mouth to swallow it. It's normal. Remember, he's never had anything thicker than breast milk or formula before, and this may take some getting used to. Try diluting it the first few times, then gradually thicken the texture. You may also want to wait a week or two and try again.
- Is he big enough? Generally, when infants double their birth weight (typically at about 4 months) and weigh about 13 pounds or more, they may be ready for solid foods.

NOTE: The AAP recommends breastfeeding as the sole source of nutrition for your baby for about 6 months. When you add solid foods to your baby's diet, continue breastfeeding until at least 12 months. You can continue to breastfeed after 12 months if you and your baby desire.

Check with your child's doctor about vitamin D and iron supplements during the first year.

#### How do I feed my baby?

Start with half a spoonful or less and talk to your baby through the process ("Mmm, see how good this is?"). Your baby may not know what to do at first. She may look confused, wrinkle her nose, roll the food around her mouth, or reject it altogether.

One way to make eating solids for the first time easier is to give your baby a little breast milk and/or formula first, then switch to very small half-spoonfuls of food, and finish with more breast milk and/or formula. This will prevent your baby from getting frustrated when she is very hungry.

Do not be surprised if most of the first few solid-food feedings wind up on your baby's face, hands, and bib. Increase the amount of food gradually, with just a teaspoonful or two to start. This allows your baby time to learn how to swallow solids.

Do not make your baby eat if she cries or turns away when you feed her. Go back to nursing or bottle-feeding exclusively for a time before trying again. Remember that starting solid foods is a gradual process and at first your baby will still be getting most of her nutrition from breast milk and/or formula.

NOTE: Do not put baby cereal in a bottle because your baby could choke. It also may increase the amount of food your baby eats and can cause your baby to gain too much weight. However, cereal in a bottle may be recommended if your baby has reflux. Check with your child's doctor.

#### Which food should I give my baby first?

For most babies it does not matter what the first solid foods are. By tradition, single-grain cereals are usually introduced first. However, there is no medical evidence that introducing solid foods in any particular order has an advantage for your baby. Though many pediatricians will recommend starting vegetables before fruits, there is no evidence that your baby will develop a dislike for vegetables if fruit is given first. Babies are born with a preference for sweets, and the order of introducing foods does not change this. If your baby has been mostly breastfeeding, he may benefit from baby food made with meat, which contains more easily absorbed sources of iron and zinc that are needed by 4 to 6 months of age. Check with your child's doctor.

Baby cereals are available premixed in individual containers or dry, to which you can add breast milk, formula, or water. Whichever type of cereal you use, make sure that it is made for babies and iron-fortified.

#### When can my baby try other food?

Once your baby learns to eat one food, gradually give him other foods. Give your baby one new food at a time, and wait at least 2 to 3 days before starting another. After each new food, watch for any allergic reactions such as diarrhea, rash, or vomiting. If any of these occur, stop using the new food and consult with your child's doctor.

Generally, meats and vegetables contain more nutrients per serving than fruits or cereals. Many pediatricians recommend against giving eggs and fish in the first year of life because of allergic reactions, but there is no evidence that introducing these nutrient-dense foods after 4 to 6 months of age determines whether your baby will be allergic to them.

Within a few months of starting solid foods, your baby's daily diet should include a variety of foods each day that may include the following: breast milk and/or formula, meats, cereal, vegetables, fruits, eggs, and fish.

NOTE: If you make your own baby food, be aware that home-prepared spinach, beets, green beans, squash, and carrots are not good choices during early infancy. They may contain large amounts of nitrates. Nitrates are chemicals that can cause an unusual type of anemia (low blood count) in young babies. Commercially prepared vegetables are safer because the manufacturers test for nitrates. Peas, corn, and sweet potatoes are better choices for home-prepared baby foods.

#### When can I give my baby finger foods?

Once your baby can sit up and bring her hands or other objects to her mouth, you can give her finger foods to help her learn to feed herself. To avoid choking, make sure anything you give your baby is soft, easy to swallow, and cut into small pieces. Some examples include small pieces of banana, wafer-type cookies, or crackers; scrambled eggs; well-cooked pasta; well-cooked chicken finely chopped; and well-cooked and cut up yellow squash, peas, and potatoes.

At each of your baby's daily meals, she should be eating about 4 ounces, or the amount in one small jar of strained baby food. Limit giving your baby foods that are made for adults. These foods often contain more salt and other preservatives.

If you want to give your baby fresh food, use a blender or food processor, or just mash softer foods with a fork. All fresh foods should be cooked with no added salt or seasoning. Though you can feed your baby raw bananas (mashed), most other fruits and vegetables should be cooked until they are soft. Refrigerate any food you do not use, and look for any signs of spoilage before giving it to your baby. Fresh foods are not bacteria-free, so they will spoil more quickly than food from a can or jar.

NOTE: Do not give your baby any food that requires chewing at this age. Do not give your baby any food that can be choking hazards, including hot dogs (including meat sticks [baby food "hot dogs"]); nuts and seeds; chunks of meat or cheese; whole grapes; popcorn; chunks of peanut butter; raw vegetables; fruit chunks, such as apple chunks; and hard, gooey, or sticky candy.

## What changes can I expect after my baby starts solids?

When your baby starts eating solid foods, his stools will become more solid and variable in color. Because of the added sugars and fats, they will have a much stronger odor too. Peas and other green vegetables may turn the stool a deep-green color; beets may make it red. (Beets sometimes make urine red as well.) If your baby's meals are not strained, his stools may contain undigested pieces of food, especially hulls of peas or corn, and the skin of tomatoes or other vegetables. All of this is normal. Your baby's digestive system is still immature and needs time before it can fully process these new foods. If the stools are extremely loose, watery, or full of mucus, however, it may mean the digestive tract is irritated. In this case, reduce the amount of solids and introduce them more slowly. If the stools continue to be loose, watery, or full of mucus, consult your child's doctor to find the reason.

### Should I give my baby juice?

Babies do not need juice. Babies younger than 6 months should not be given juice. However, if you choose to give your baby juice, do so only after 6 months of age, give only 100% fruit juice, and offer it only in a cup, not in a bottle. To help prevent tooth decay, do not put your child to bed with a bottle. If you do, make sure it contains only water.

Limit juice to no more than 4 ounces a day and offer it only with a meal or snack. Any more than this will reduce her appetite for other, more nutritious foods, including breast milk and/or formula. Too much juice also can cause diaper rash, diarrhea, or excessive weight gain.

#### Using a high chair

The following are safety tips when using a high chair:

- Make sure the high chair you use cannot be tipped over easily.
- If the chair folds, be sure it is locked each time you set it up.
- Whenever your child sits in the chair, use the safety straps, including the crotch strap. This will prevent your child from slipping down, which could cause serious injury or even death. Never allow your child to stand in the high chair.
- Do not place the high chair near a counter or table. Your child may be able to push hard enough against these surfaces to tip the chair over.
- Never leave a young child alone in a high chair, and do not allow older children to climb or play on it because this could also tip it over.
- A high chair that hooks on to a table is not a good substitute for a
  freestanding one. If you plan to use this type of chair when you eat
  out or travel, look for one that locks on to the table. Be sure the table
  is heavy enough to support your child's weight without tipping. Also,
  check to see whether your child's feet can touch a table support. If
  your child pushes against the table, it may dislodge the seat.

#### Does my baby need water?

Healthy babies do not need extra water. Breast milk and/or formula provides all the fluids they need. However, with the introduction of solid foods, water can be added to your baby's diet. Also, a small amount of water may be needed in very hot weather, but check with your child's doctor about how much is safe. And if you live in an area where the water is fluoridated, drinking water also will help prevent future tooth decay.

#### Good eating habits start early

It is important for your baby to get used to the process of eating—sitting up, taking food from a spoon, resting between bites, and stopping when full. These early experiences will help your child learn good eating habits throughout life.

Encourage family meals from the first feeding. When you can, the whole family should eat together. Research suggests that having dinner together as a family on a regular basis has positive effects on the development of children.

Remember to offer a good variety of healthy foods that are rich in the nutrients your child needs. Watch your child for cues that he has had enough to eat. Do not overfeed!

If you have any questions about your child's nutrition, including concerns about your child eating too much or too little, talk with your child's doctor.

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## **Teething in Children: Care Instructions**

Upper teeth		Age tooth comes in	Age tooth falls out	
g0055	Central incisor	8-12 mos.	6-7 yrs.	
	Lateral incisor	9-13 mos.	`7-8 yrs.	
	Canine (cuspid)	16-22 mos.	10-12 yrs.	
	First molar	13-19 mos.		
	Second molar	25-33 mos.	10-12 yrs.	
Lower teeth				
	Second molar	23-31 mos.	10-12 yrs.	
	First molar	14-18 mos.	9-11 yrs:	
	Canine (cuspid)	17-23 mos.	9-12 yrs:	
	Lateral incisor	10-16 mos.	7-8 yrs.	
D Healthwise, Incorporated	Central incisor	6-10 mos.	6-7 yrs.	

#### **Your Care Instructions**

Teething is the normal process in which your baby's first set of teeth (primary teeth) break through the gums (erupt). Teething usually begins at around 6 months of age, but it is different for each child. Some children begin teething at 3 to 4 months, while others do not start until age 12 months or later. A total of 20 teeth erupt by the time a child is about 3 years old. Usually teeth appear first in the front of the mouth. Lower teeth usually erupt 1 to 2 months earlier than their matching upper teeth. Girls' teeth often erupt sooner than boys' teeth.

Your child may be irritable and uncomfortable from the swelling and tenderness at the site of the erupting tooth. These symptoms usually begin about 3 to 5 days before a tooth erupts and then go away as soon as it breaks the skin. Your child may bite on fingers or toys to help relieve the pressure in the gums. He or she may refuse to eat and drink because of mouth soreness. Children sometimes drool more during this time. The drool may cause a rash on the chin, face, or chest.

Teething may cause a mild increase in your child's temperature. But if the temperature is higher than 100.4 F (38 C), look for symptoms that may be related to an infection or illness.

You might be able to ease your child's pain by rubbing the gums and giving your child safe objects to chew on.

Follow-up care is a key part of your child's treatment and safety. Be sure to make and go to all appointments, and call your doctor if your child is having problems. It's also a good idea to know your child's test results and keep a list of the medicines your child takes.

## How can you care for your child at home?

 Give acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) for pain or fussiness. Read and follow all instructions on the label.

- Gently rub your child's gum where the tooth is erupting for about 2 minutes at a time. Make sure your finger is clean, or use a clean teething ring.
- Do not use teething gels for children younger than age 2. Ask your doctor before using mouthnumbing medicine for children older than age 2. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warns that some of these can be dangerous. Talk to your child's doctor about other teething remedies.
- · Give your child safe objects to chew on, such as teething rings. Do not use fluid-filled teethers.
- If your child is eating solids, try offering cold foods and fluids, which help to ease gum pain. You can also dip a clean washcloth in water, freeze it, and let your child chew on it.

## When should you call for help?



Call your doctor now or seek immediate medical care if:

- · Your child has a fever.
- · Your child keeps pulling on his or her ears.
- · Your child has diarrhea or a severe diaper rash.

Watch closely for changes in your child's health, and be sure to contact your doctor if:

- · You think your child has tooth decay.
- · Your child is 18 months old and has not had an erupting tooth yet.

## Where can you learn more?

Go to https://www.healthwise.net/patiented

Enter C015 in the search box to learn more about "Teething in Children: Care Instructions".

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# **Baby-sitting Reminders**

### **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

PARENTS	POLICEPOISON CENTERHOME PHONEHOME ADDRESS
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#### PARENTS SHOULD

- Meet the sitter and check references and training in advance.
- Be certain the sitter has had first aid training and knows CPR.
- Be sure the sitter is at least 13 years old and mature enough to handle common emergencies.
- Have the sitter spend time with you before baby-sitting to meet the children and learn their routines.
- Show the sitter around the house. Point out fire escape routes and potential problem areas. Instruct the sitter to leave the house right away in case of fire and to call the fire department from a neighbor's house.
- Discuss feeding, bathing, and sleeping arrangements for your children.
- Tell your sitter of any allergies or specific needs your children have.
- Have emergency supplies available including a flashlight, first aid chart, and first aid supplies.
- Tell the sitter where you will be and when you will return.
- Be sure any guns are stored unloaded in a locked cabinet, and lock and store the ammunition in a separate place.

#### SITTERS SHOULD

- Be prepared for an emergency.
- Always phone for help if there are any problems or questions.
- Never open the door to strangers.
- Never leave the children alone in the house even for a minute.
- Never give the children any medicine or food unless instructed to do so by the parents.
- Remember that your job is to care for the children. Tender loving care usually quiets an unhappy child.

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