

# Baby Products with Safety in Mind

It is important to keep safety in mind when purchasing infant products. Parents and caregivers might not be aware of the potential hazards of some products. Here's a handy checklist to help you keep a safe environment in which to grow.

## Back carriers

*(use after 4 or 5 months)*

- The carrier has restraining strap to hold the child.
- The leg openings are not too small or too large
- The frame has no place which could pinch when folding
- The carrier has padding on the frame near baby's face

## Bassinets/cradles

*(pay attention to size and weight of baby for usage)*

- Bassinet or cradle has a sturdy bottom and wide base
- Bassinet or cradle has no protruding staples or other hardware
- Bassinet or cradle legs are strong and lock to prevent folding while in use
- Mattress is firm and fits snugly

## Bath Rings/Seats

*(never leave baby unattended)*

- Suction cups securely fastened to product and tub
- Tub filled only with enough water to cover baby's legs
- Never leave baby alone or with young sibling while in ring

## Carrier Seats

*(never use as a car seat)*

- Carrier seat has wide sturdy base for stability
- Supporting devices lock securely
- Carrier has crotch and waist strap
- Buckle or strap is easy to use

## Cribs

*(do not place near drapes or blinds. When child can climb or fall over sides, replace with bed)*

- Slats spaced no more than 2 3/8 inches apart



- No slats missing or cracked
- Mattress fits snugly—less than two-finger width between edge of mattress and crib side
- Mattress support securely attached to head and foot boards
- Corner posts no higher than 1/16 to prevent entanglement of clothing
- No cuts in headboards and footboards
- Drop-side latches cannot be easily reached by baby
- Drop-side latches securely hold sides in raised position

## Crib Toys

*(remove crib gyms when child is able to pull or push up on hands and knees)*

- No strings with loops or openings with perimeter greater than 14 inches
- No strings or cords longer than 7 inches dangling into crib
- Components of toys are not small enough to be a choking hazard.

## Gates/Enclosures

*(do not use accordion or expandable enclosures with large v-shaped openings along top edge or diamond-shaped openings within)*

- Openings in gate are too small to entrap a child's head
- Gate has pressure bar or other fastener which will resist force of a child

## Pacifiers

*(never hang pacifier or other item on string around baby's neck)*

- No ribbon, string, cord, yarn attached to pacifier
- Shield is large enough to not fit in child's mouth
- Guard/shield has ventilation holes so that baby can breathe if the shield does get into the mouth
- Pacifier nipple has no holes or tears that might cause it to break in baby's mouth

## Playpens

*(never leave infant in playpen or crib with drop side down)*

- Mesh has small weave less than 1/4 inch openings

- Mesh has no tears, holes or loose threads
- Mesh is securely attached to top rail and floorplate
- Top rail cover has no rips or holes
- Wooden playpen has slats spaced no more than 2 inches apart
- If staples used in construction, they are firmly installed, not missing or loose

## Rattles, Squeeze Toys, Teethingers

*(take out of crib or playpen in which baby sleeps)*

- Too large to lodge in baby's throat
- Rattles are of sturdy construction and will not break in use
- Squeeze toys do not contain squeaker that will detach

## Strollers/Carriages

*(keep children's hands away from pinching areas and never leave unattended)*

- Wide base to prevent tipping
- Seat belt and crotch strap securely attached to frame
- Seat belt buckle easy to use
- Brakes securely lock the wheels
- Shopping basket is low on the back, directly over or in front of rear wheels

## Walkers

*(place gates or guards at top of all stairways or keep stairway doors closed)*

- Wide wheel base for stability
- Covers over coil springs
- Seat is securely attached to frame or walker
- No x-frames that could pinch fingers

*Adapted from Tips for Your Baby's Safety,  
Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C.*

*For local resources contact:*