



HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

HS 1302.46 Family support services for health, nutrition, and mental health (b) (i)

Policy: Programs must collaborate with parents to promote children’s health and well-being by providing...opportunities for parents to learn about...health and safety practices for the home.

Below is a checklist of ways to avoid potential hazards in and around homes. We’ve developed this checklist to help you prevent accidents and injuries from happening. Complete a home inspection using this checklist, noticing any areas you would like to discuss with EHS/HS staff.

**Certain items may be available through Head Start funding if needed/available. Please ask if you require additional safety items for the home.

GENERAL:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Comments/Questions/Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Windowsills, woodwork, and sleep/play areas are free from flaking paint chips.	**
<input type="checkbox"/>	Windows that open have screens. Windows/screens can securely lock. Window-blind cords are not accessible.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Firearms are kept in a locked area. Ammunition is stored separately. Trigger locks in place on all firearms.	** <i>Local police departments may give out trigger locks free of charge.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plastic bags are out of reach of children.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electrical outlets are covered.	**
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electrical cords are out of reach of children.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Porches, balconies, and stairways have gates or other barriers to protect against falls.	**
<input type="checkbox"/>	Heating units, fireplaces, radiators have protective screens/coverings/barriers.	**
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rugs and carpets are not loose or a possible tripping hazard.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plants are not accessible to children.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Furniture has all sharp corners covered.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A fire extinguisher is available in the home or apartment complex hallway and regularly checked.	**
<input type="checkbox"/>	Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are installed and regularly checked.	**

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

	Family has a fire escape plan that all adults and children know and practice throughout the year.	<i>Local fire departments may have fire escape plan templates.</i>
	Fire ladder is available If there is only one exit from the second or third floor.	<i>Local fire departments may give out fire ladders free of charge.</i>
	Cigarettes, marijuana, lighters, ashtrays, vapor materials are out of children's reach.	**
	Batteries in remotes and toys are secured and inaccessible to children. Batteries are disposed of safely.	<i>Local disposal sites list available.</i>
	Large furniture (dressers, bookshelves, TV's, etc.) are secured to the wall to avoid falling or being pulled over onto a child.	**
	Cleaning products are labeled and kept out of reach of children and/or locked.	**
	Medications are kept out of reach of children or in lock box.	**

KITCHEN:



Comments/Questions/Resources

	Emergency numbers are quickly available.	
	ICE app or contact is listed/available.	
	Cooking utensils, knives, and other sharp objects are stored out of reach.	
	Water temperature is below 120* F at all sinks.	<i>Water heater can be adjusted.</i>
	There is no standing water, such as a bucket of mop water.	

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

BEDROOMS:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Comments/Questions/Resources
	All perfumes, cosmetics, and personal hygiene products are kept out of reach.	**
	Sharp objects, such as needles, scissors, tools, etc. are out of reach of children.	**

BATHROOMS:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Comments/Questions/Resources
	Expired medicines are turned in to pharmacies or the Michigan State Police.	
	Razors, scissors, and sharp objects are kept out of reach.	**
	Hair dryers, curling/flat irons, electric razors, etc. are unplugged when not in use and stored out of reach.	
	Personal hygiene products are stored out of reach.	**
	There is a toilet lock on the toilet for children under 3.	**

SPACES WHERE CHILDREN PLAY:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Comments/Questions/Resources
	Toys have no sharp edges or small breakable parts.	
	Toys or game parts are not small enough for a child 3 and under to swallow (should not be able to fit through a toilet paper roll tube)	
	Broken toys are repaired or disposed of.	
	The room(s) where children play are arranged to move freely and safely.	
	Adult tools/equipment are not accessible to children in a play area.	

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

LAUNDRY AREA:



Comments/Questions/Resources

	Soaps, detergents, soap pods, and bleach are kept out of reach or locked and labeled.	**
	All cleaning products, such as drain cleaners, window cleaner, furniture polish is kept out of reach and labeled.	**
	Washer and dryer are always kept closed.	

BASEMENT, GARAGE, OR OTHER STORAGE AREA:



Comments/Questions/Resources

	All hazardous materials are kept out of reach and labeled. This may include Super-Glue, wood glue, repair products, paint, paint strippers, paint thinners, turpentine, soldering compound, caulking, insecticides, weed killer, gasoline, oil, lighter fluid/grilling supplies, antifreeze, seeds, fertilizer, and/or bulbs.	
	If there is a freezer or refrigerator, it is kept locked.	
	Power and hand tools are unplugged, stored safely and out of reach.	
	Ladders, shovels, rakes are stored safely.	
	There is no standing water or any other fluid in reach of children.	
	Returnable cans and bottles are stored out of reach.	

OUTSIDE AREAS:



Comments/Questions/Resources

	Plants or shrubs that are of the poisonous variety are inaccessible to children or are removed.	
	Play area is free of glass, nails, litter, and other sharp or hazardous materials.	

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

	Broken toys are repaired or disposed of.	
	Sandboxes have covers for when not in use.	
	Boundaries around play areas are distinct so children know their limits. This could be a fence, shrubs, tree line, painted lines, or cones.	
	Large climbing and play equipment are secured and safe.	
	Life jackets are available and used when children play/swim in streams, rivers, lakes, pools, or other bodies of water.	
	Bike helmets are available and used when children ride trikes, bikes, scooters, roller skates/blades, and skateboards.	<i>Communities often have events with free bike helmet giveaways.</i>
	If children go barefoot, the ground is free of debris.	

AUTOMOBILE:



Comments/Questions/Resources

	Properly installed and approved car seats are available and used for all children.	<i>Fire Department and other resources may be available.</i>
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ADDITIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Please contact EHS/HS staff if you are interested in information on any of the following:

- Emergency First Aid
- Health and Developmental Consequences of Tobacco Products
- Exposure to Lead
- Safe Sleep Information
- Pet safety - Have you talked with your child about caring for your pet? Does your pet have a "safe spot" to go where children leave it alone?
- PPO Plan - If you have a PPO against anyone, do you have a plan in place if an incident should occur with this person?
- Any Additional Health and Safety Information

SAFETY TIPS

- Children should not walk or run with any long object in their mouth such as a toothbrush, lollipops, candy canes, etc.
- During and after cooking, pots and pans handles should be turned away from edges to prevent burns if a child grabbed the handle or the handle was bumped into.
- Smoking should be done in a designated smoking area, away from children.

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Outside areas should ALWAYS be inspected by an adult before children play.
- Outside play should ALWAYS be supervised by an adult.
- Wading/play/splash pools should be emptied daily.
- Children should ALWAYS be supervised when water is accessible.
- Play equipment should be checked regularly for hazards (breaks, splintering, rust, sharp areas, etc.)
- Always keep child safety locks activated on doors when available.
- Keep vehicles locked when not in use to prevent children from entering.
- Keep in mind that certain cleaning supplies/chemicals etc. may look enticing to children or even look like other items they enjoy (such as windex = kool aid or pine sol = apple juice).

THIS SECTION IS FOR EARLY HEAD START STAFF

TALKING POINTS

DATE NOTED ON HV PLAN

Safe sleeping practices	
Choking hazard/choke tube – using toilet paper tube	
Medications – read labels, measure only with the measuring tool provided, don't modify adult medications for children, don't share medications, leave medication in the original container. Medication should never be kept in a purse or diaper bag where children may find it.	
Other:	
Other:	

Additional Comments/Questions:

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

2nd year Parent Initial: _____ Date: _____

3rd year Parent Initial: _____ Date: _____