

Public Service Messages

The Answers

1. Secure area rugs.

Especially on wood, ceramic tile, or linoleum floors, area rugs can cause anyone to slip up. Secure them with a piece of foam carpet backing, double-sided tape, or a rubber pad, available at many carpet and department stores.

2. Make high climbs more work than they're worth.

For the budding mountain climber in your family, countertops, toy boxes, chests of drawers, and bookcases can be very inviting. Especially if there's a reward at the top. You can't stop kids from wanting to climb, but you can make the trek less rewarding (*hide the goodies*) and more difficult (*move anything, like step ladders and low furniture that may aid the climber*).

3. Keep an eye on the kids.

It's no surprise that unsupervised horseplay is responsible for a great number of falls in the home. Although it's impossible to watch them every second, remember that climbing on radiators, especially in front of windows, can be dangerous for kids.

4. Keep stairs clear.

Up and down. Up and down. Kids must spend as much time running up and down stairs as they do going in and out the back door. As it is, stairs figure in a large percentage of home falls. Combine a child's boundless, yet reckless, energy with a staircase full of junk, and you could end up taking an emergency trip to the hospital.

5. Don't put beds or other furniture in front of windows.

That same endless energy that climbs stairs and slams doors also loves to jump on beds and climb on furniture. So, for your own peace of mind, move all furniture away from your windows.

6. Keep the top of the stairs clear and protected, too.

Young children, especially preschoolers, haven't yet developed a healthy respect for heights or a working knowledge of stairs. Don't make them learn the hard way. Keep furniture from collecting along the top railing and consider installing a restraining gate at the head of the stairs.

7. Don't let them lean on the insect screens.

To help prevent falls, keep children away from open windows. And don't depend on insect screens to keep your child from falling out the window. They're designed to keep insects out, not children in.

8. Keep doors closed to balconies, decks, and fire escapes.

Since places like these can become more accessible in the summer months, they are a real invitation for youthful roughhousing. Kids will be kids. Close the doors and help them reach adulthood.

9. Keep furniture away from the edge.

To kids, it's just another play area. But what happens if they venture too close to the edge is no joke.

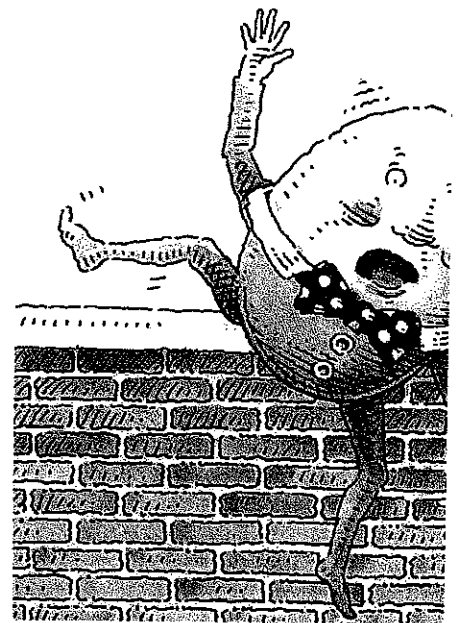
10. Always use a rubber mat or no-skid stickers in the tub.

And, never leave a very young child unattended in the tub. Should they slip and fall, they may be unable to cry for help.

Thank you for taking this short quiz. By doing so, you show your concern for the welfare of your children.

Dangers that are obvious to adults are not necessarily that apparent to our young ones. They need extra guidance and an ever-vigilant eye. By following these simple

Humpty Dumpty
sat on a wall
Humpty Dumpty
had a great fall
All the king's
horses and
All the king's men



Were sorry they hadn't kept A better eye on him.

A quiz on home falls you can take with your kids.


To you, home may represent a haven of safety and security.

But for young children (*and wall-climbing eggs named Humpty*), it can also be a minefield of potentially dangerous falls. In fact, for kids one to four years old, home falls are the fifth leading cause of accidental death in America.

How many of these 10 home hazards do you recognize? Take a moment with your children and take this simple quiz. It should refresh your memory and enlighten your children to dangers in the home. And it could mean the difference between life and death for someone you love.

(See answers on back page.)





Every day you
whisper a promise
to your child, "I'll
always love you
and keep you safe."

But keeping your
home and children
safe takes more
than promises.

It can only be
done with safety

e
planning and
preventive action.

Fires and falls of all
kinds are among
the leading causes of
injury and death in
young children. While
some falls occur from
windows, it's important to
realize that in a fire, a window can
save a child's life. That is why windows
play a critical role in home safety.

This safety message brought to you by the
National Safety Council and the membership of the
American Architectural Manufacturers Association,
the National Wood Window and Door Association,
and the Screen Manufacturers Association.



Keeping
the promise

Safety.
window safety awareness

Fire is frightening. All too often, the bodies of young children are found after a fire in places where they tried to hide. Teach your children that they can't hide from fire: They must escape it. Decide on at least two emergency escape routes from your home. Windows provide one of the fastest, easiest alternative ways out of a burning home. Teach children how to safely escape through windows and take time to practice with them.

Windows can serve as emergency escape routes.

Every family member should know how to operate the windows used for fire emergencies. Delays in escaping from a fire cost lives and increase injuries. Often paint, dirt or weathering can seal a window shut. Make sure yours open easily from the inside and are not blocked by furniture or other objects.

Remember that security bars, grilles and grates not only keep intruders out, they can also lock you in. The same holds true for window guards. Everyone should always be able to get out through a window without using tools, keys, special knowledge or effort.

Window safety.

Preventing falls out of windows is as important as learning how to use one in an emergency. Unattended children run the greatest risk of falls and injuries, so the best first step is to watch your children as they play. Nothing can substitute for careful supervision.

When youngsters are around, close and lock your windows. If you need ventilation, open only windows they cannot reach. Be sure to keep furniture - or anything children can climb - away from windows. And teach your children not to play near windows.

Never depend on insect screens to prevent falls. Insect screens are designed to provide ventilation. They will not hold a child's weight against them.

Only solid information and proper preparations can help you keep the promise of safety you give to your loved ones. For more ways to protect your home and family please contact:

National Fire Protection Association

Department of Public Education
One Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02269-9101

National Safety Council

1121 Spring Lake Drive
Itasca, IL 60143-3201

For additional Window Safety Awareness brochures in quantities of 100 or more, write to:
National Safety Council
Community Safety Division
1121 Spring Lake Drive
Itasca, IL 60143-3201