

## Yard:

- Children need to be supervised at all times.
- Always supervise children in or near water (pools, streams, puddles, etc.).
- Store tools, garden and lawn-care equipment and supplies in a locked closet or shed.
- Do not use a power mower to cut the lawn while children are close by.
- Children should not play on treated lawns for at least 48 hours following an application of a fertilizer or pesticide.
- Know the types of trees on the property in the event that a child eats berries, leaves or other plant life.
- When you barbecue, never leave children unattended around the grill.
- Store propane grills where children cannot reach the knobs.
- Home play structures and play areas should be inspected regularly for broken parts, glass and other dangerous debris. Structures should be promptly fixed should damage be found.

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*Learn First Aid and CPR and watch for and eliminate hazards throughout the house!*



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Highland Shores Children's Aid  
serves the counties of  
Hastings, Northumberland  
and Prince Edward.



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## Childproofing Your Home



*Make sure  
that your  
home is a  
safe haven  
for your  
children  
and you.*

### *Safety measures for every room:*

- Install child resistant covers on all unused electrical outlets, extension cords and power bars.
- Keep electrical cords out of reach, but never under rugs or stapled to baseboards.
- Store dangerous chemicals out of reach in a locked cabinet.
- Use a safety belt on your baby when he/she is sitting in a bouncy seat, booster chair or swing.
- Place furniture well away from windows and shorten curtain and blind cords.
- Book shelves, tall furniture, electrical equipment and televisions should be securely installed.
- Use corner bumpers on furniture.
- Place houseplants out of children's reach.
- Know the names of all plants in case a child eats one of them.
- Keep cigarettes, matches and lighters out of children's reach.
- Be sure that furnaces, fireplaces, wood-burning stoves, space heaters, and gas appliances are all vented properly.
- Place screened barriers around fireplaces, radiators and portable space heaters.
- Install carbon-monoxide (CO) alarms outside of sleeping areas to help prevent CO poisoning.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home. Remember to change the batteries once each year. For consistency, change batteries when the clocks change (in the spring or fall).
- Keep furnaces clear of laundry, garbage, toys, boxes, etc. to prevent fires.
- Safety-proof windows and fire exits.
- Chimneys should be inspected every year, if appropriate.
- Make a fire evacuation plan and practice fire escape routes at least twice each year.
- Remove the plastic end caps on door stops or replace the stops with a one piece design to prevent choking.
- Keep firearms and ammunition safely locked away.

- Keep sliding doors closed or lock the screen door.
- Keep balcony clear of any climbing apparatus.

### *Bathroom:*

- Always supervise children while they are in the bathroom and bathtub.
- Always test the water before bathing a child.
- Empty the bathtub after each use.
- Install a slip free surface in the tub.
- Bathroom door should be kept closed to keep children out.
- Keep the following items stored out of reach: razors, electrical appliances, personal care products and garbage.
- To prevent poisoning, lock away all vitamins, medication and cleaning solvents.
- Expired medication should be returned to the pharmacy.
- Lower the household's water temperature.
- Install ground-fault circuit interrupters on outlets near sinks and bathtubs.

### *Kitchen:*

- Children should always be supervised in the kitchen.
- Safety latches should be installed on cabinets and drawers.
- Pot handles should be turned inward on the stove.
- To avoid fires and burns, never leave cooking food unattended.
- Working fire extinguishers should be easily accessible.
- Keep knives, cleaning supplies, plastic bags, plastic wrap, glass and breakables out of reach of children.
- Teach children how to respond to fires.
- Replace any frayed cords and wires.
- Keep chairs and step stools away from counters and the stove.
- Keep activated charcoal (helps absorb some poisons) and syrup of ipecac (used to induce vomiting) on hand.



- Keep the poison control telephone number posted.
- Beware of foods that children can choke on.
- Keep all pet food out of reach when pets are not being fed.
- When they're not in use, unplug electrical appliances.

### *Hallways and staircases:*

- Illuminate dark hallways and keep them clutter free.
- Install baby gates at the top and bottom of stairs.
- If possible, install carpeting on stairways to protect from falls and ensure that children wear slippers/socks with non-slip soles.

### *Kids' bedrooms:*

- Cribs need to meet safety standards.
- Make sure that the crib mattress and sheets fit snugly.
- Make sure the crib is free of pillows, bumper pads, blankets and toys.
- Remove mobiles and other hanging toys from the crib as soon as your child can reach up and touch them.
- Position your child's bed away from all draperies, electrical cords, and windows.
- Electrical blankets in the bed or crib are not recommended.
- Place night lights at least three feet away from the crib, bedding and draperies to prevent fires.
- Always place one hand on your child while on the change table or any other change area.
- Side railings are encouraged for children when transitioning into a big bed.
- No child under six years of age should be on the top level of a bunk bed.
- Guard rails should be used on all upper bunks.
- Check age labels for appropriate toys and discard toys that are broken or old. Do not buy toys that contain lead.
- Always use lead free paint when redoing furniture.
- If bedrooms are on second or third stories, be sure to have a fire escape plan/ladder in each room.