

CONTACT:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September is Baby Safety Month!

Once you are a parent you become extra careful to protect your children from the dangers that lurk “out there”. But what about the dangers that exist closer to home? Here are a few proven tips to keep your baby safe and sound.

Eliminate potential hazards

- ? Buy a crib that meets all current National Safety Standards. Corner posts must be 1/16 inch or shorter. The distance between crib slats should be 2 3/8 inch or less to avoid entrapment. The mattress should fit securely in the crib with no more than two fingers of space between the crib and mattress. Be wary of used cribs, especially those constructed before 1991, when the safety standards were developed.
- ? Remove all soft bedding, toys and pillows from the crib when the baby is sleeping, to reduce the risk of suffocation. Place your baby on his or her back to sleep.
- ? Buy only age-appropriate toys for your baby. Small toys and toy parts can choke infants. Keep small objects like buttons, beads, marbles, coins and tacks off the nursery floor.
- ? Make sure household cleaners, medicines and vitamins are locked up and away from your baby.
- ? Never leave infants unattended near sinks, tubs, buckets and containers and be sure to empty these immediately after use.
- ? Install and maintain smoke alarms outside bedrooms and on every floor. Place carbon monoxide detectors in every sleeping area of your home.
- ? If your house or apartment was built before 1978, have a professional test your home for lead-based paint. If there is lead paint in your home, the paint should be completely removed or covered with an approved sealant.
- ? Use a child safety seat on every ride. Infants should ride in rear-facing child safety seats, in the back seat of the vehicle, until they are at least 1 year old and 20 pounds.
- ? Never leave your baby unattended on changing tables, beds or other furniture.
- ? Set the thermostat on your hot water heater to 120°F or lower. Make sure there are no hot spots in bath water by moving your hand back and forth in the water.

For More Information

In Hillsdale County – Call the Healthy Beginnings Program, part of the Community Health Agency, at (517) 437-7395.

In Branch County – Call the Success by Six Program, part of the Branch County Intermediate School District, at (517) 279-0066.

In St. Joseph County – Call Pat Larkins with Healthy Families/Nurturing Communities, part of the Community Health Agency, at (616) 273-2161.

If you have specific questions about other hazards that exist for babies, consult your pediatrician.