

6 to 12 months

More tips now that baby is crawling and climbing:

Baby is now becoming mobile. Creeping, crawling, climbing and toppling over from a sitting position can harm a baby. Everything baby grabs goes right to the mouth.

- 1** Never use a baby walker. Walkers are dangerous and don't help babies learn to walk.
- 2** Never leave baby in the care of small children.
- 3** Never leave baby alone in the bath, not even for a few seconds.
- 4** Keep the crib sides up. Baby can easily topple out at this age.
- 5** Keep babies away from stairs. Stairs are dangerous.
- 6** Open doors cautiously. Babies can be hidden behind them. When you close a door, make sure baby's fingers are not in the way.
- 7** Keep unsteady furniture out of reach. It can be pulled over easily.

8 Never leave baby near a fire, oven door, electric iron, kettle or fan.

9 Never place baby's highchair near a stove, electric appliance, plants, or in a high-traffic area.

10 Unplug electric appliances when not in use and keep cords out of babies' reach as they can bite them or trip over them.

11 Beware of electric outlets. They should have plastic outlet covers.

12 Because of the possibility of suffocation, never use ribbons, strings or necklaces around baby's neck or on a pacifier.

13 Keep all small objects, e.g. buttons, coins, pins, jewellery, pens, out of baby's reach. A baby can easily choke on them.

14 Check the size of all toys, especially rattles, to see if any parts of them can be swallowed. In fact, allow babies to play with age-related toys only, and not with toys meant for older children.

15 Be careful where you step. Baby may be underfoot.

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Avoid play areas with sharp-edged tables and furniture, or cover table corners.

17 Avoid feeding infants hard-to-swallow foods, such as nuts, raw carrots, orange segments, candies, chips, gum, grapes, raisins and hot dogs, as these can choke a young child.

18 Keep emergency telephone numbers handy. It's a good idea to keep a list of fire-department, police, ambulance, doctor, and poison-control numbers on the fridge.

It's great to see baby begin to move around. But always remember, the greater the mobility, the more trouble a baby can get into around the house.

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