SAFE COMMUNITY COALITION

Nursery Safety

Cribs

- Make sure the crib has no more than a 2 3/8-inch space between crib slats.
- Crib corner posts should not extend more than 1/16 of an inch above the top of the end panel.
- Use a mattress that fits snugly. You should not be able to fit more than two fingers between the edge of the mattress and crib side.
- Mattress support hangers should be securely attached to headboard and footboard.
- Do not use a crib that has cutout areas on the headboard or footboard where a baby's head may get trapped.
- All crib hardware should be designed for the crib and secured tightly. Never use a crib with broken or missing parts.
- Drop-side latches should securely hold side in raised position.
- Remove all crib toys that are strung across crib or playpen area when your child is beginning to push up on hands and knees or is five months of age, whichever comes earliest.
- No strings or cords should dangle into crib.
- Make sure your crib has no cracked or peeling paint, splinters or rough edges.

Portable cribs/playpens

- Look for playpens with top rails that automatically lock. Do not use playpens with rotating top rails that may collapse and entrap a child.
- Never leave an infant in a mesh playpen or crib with the drop-side down.
- Do not use a playpen with protruding rivets. The rivets pose a strangulation hazard.

Walkers

- Never use baby walkers on wheels.
- Stationary activity centers or the new baby walker alternatives offer improvements in safety but still won't prevent all the hazards associated with baby walkers.
- Supervise infants at all times.

Sleep safety

- To reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and prevent suffocation, put your healthy baby to sleep on his/her back in a crib on a firm, flat mattress.
- Never use bumper pads or put baby to sleep on any soft, fluffy or plush bedding that forms a nest that baby sinks into. Any bedding or soft toys that mold around baby's face could keep fresh air and oxygen from getting to baby's nose and mouth.

Written by: Dane County Division of Public Health, Madison Department of Public Health, Madison Area SAFE KIDS Coalition, Babysafe Inc.

For more information, contact the Safe Community Coalition at (608) 256-6713, or email scc@safecommunitycoalition.org.