

GETTING YOUR HOME READY FOR YOUR GRANDCHILD

Getting your home ready for your grandchild to live with you takes time and preparation. You can create a shared living space that is safe, comfortable, and fit for growing, learning, and playing with your grandchild.

SAFETY FIRST

Homes are also the most common place for children to get hurt. Identifying hazards and making small changes can keep your grandchild safe. Start by going through your home room by room and check for safety hazards. Remember, as your grandchild grows you will need to look for new hazards.

Think about creating designated spaces for your grandchild and for yourself. This will help your grandchild feel familiar and comfortable in their new home, while giving you quiet calming areas for rest and relaxation. Try to get your grandchild involved in the process. Getting your home ready can make your daily routine with your grandchild easier and more enjoyable.

AGE APPROPRIATE CHILDPROOFING

For more information and childproofing by age go to:

<http://www.childproofingexperts.com/childproofing-checklist-by-age/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/parents/children/safety.html>



SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Safety locks have been put on cabinets and drawers with unsafe items
- Bumpers are on sharp corners and edges of furniture
- Items that have small parts and could be a choking hazard are put away
- There are clear pathways to get from one place to another
- Throw rugs are secured or put away to prevent slips and falls
- Brackets, braces, or wall straps are used to secure unstable or top-heavy furniture to the wall



- Windows are locked
- Breakables are put away or stored in a safe place
- Electrical outlets are covered
- Stairs and floor are clear of clutter
- Electrical cords are out of sight and out of reach from little hands
- Smoke detectors are working, properly placed, and batteries are checked regularly (every 3 mos.)
- Medications, cleaning supplies, liquor, and poisonous items are stored in a safe place, out of reach of children

MODIFYING YOUR HOME

FOR YOU

- Put non-slip material in the bathroom to avoid falls.
- Get a padded kneeling mat for keeping knees comfortable while giving child a bath.
- Create a relaxing space for yourself to take breaks. This could be a quiet corner in your home with a comfortable chair, magazines, and calming music.
- Consider making a reading corner for you and your grandchild.
- Make an organized space for you to work without distractions.
- Get containers/baskets to keep things that are only for you (personal mail, bills, receipts) and are out of reach from children.



FOR YOUR GRANDCHILD

- Bedroom or space your grandchild can call their own.
- Designated place for backpack and school supplies.
- Place for doing homework.
- Storage for clothes and personal items, such as toys, bicycle, and electronics.
- Schedule posted for grandchild to see weekly routine, activities and chores.
- Pantry and refrigerator stocked with healthy snacks, juices, and water.
- Small child cups, plates, utensils and glasses.



Ties That Bind is a program of the Jessie F. Richardson Foundation. With this program, we aim to connect grandparents and kinship caregivers with the resources they need.

Visit us at <http://tiesthatbindor.org/> for more.