



CHILD SAFETY QUESTIONNAIRE

Answer Key

1. Do you plan to have a baby walker?

Yes No

*The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that **more babies are injured in baby walkers than any other product for babies**. Most accidents happen when the baby falls down stairs, tips over, or gets burned. If you want to use a baby walker, be sure it is a newer one that has safety features that help prevent falls down steps. **Only put your baby in a walker when you will be within reach.** Better yet, get a stationary activity center.*

2. Will you or do you use an older crib?

Yes No

*Be sure it meets current safety standards. **Crib slats should be no further than 2 3/8" apart – about the same size as a soda pop can.** Crib manufactured before 1990 could be dangerous, and cribs with a slide down side have been banned due to serious health risks. Be sure all hardware are in place and installed correctly. Look for splinters and rough edges. Crib corners should be no more than 1/16th of an inch above end panels to prevent baby's clothes from getting caught. Remember, too, to look at cribs your baby will be using at a babysitter's, grandparents' house, etc.*

* **"Bonus Question"** – Ask what a soda can has to do with crib safety.

*Crib slats should be **no further than 2 3/8" apart – about the same size as a soda pop can.***

3. For short drives, it is okay to hold my baby in my lap.

Yes No

It is NEVER safe to hold your baby while driving or riding in the car** – even for short distances. If an accident happened, the baby would become a projectile and/or could be injured by the airbag. **Effective August 28, 2006, MO Law requires all children under age 8, under 80 lbs., and under 4'9" to be in a child safety seat or booster seat.

4. About what percent of car seats are installed incorrectly? 20% 30% 50% 70%

*According to the MO Department of Transportation, an **estimated 70% of car seats are installed incorrectly**. However, nationally some estimate as many as 80%, or 4 out of 5, car seats are installed incorrectly.*

If you buy or borrow a used car seat, be sure it comes with instructions. Read both your car seat instruction manual and your car owner's manual. Read the instruction manual carefully – learn how to correctly install it in the car and how to properly fasten your baby into the seat.

Child safety seats are the law. Until your baby is 1 year AND weighs 20 lbs., he or she should ride in a rear-facing seat in the back seat of your car. Rear-facing car seats should never be used in a front seat where an airbag is present.

5. Do you live in a home or apartment built before 1978? Yes No

Houses and apartments built before 1978 or painted with paint that was made before 1978 may contain lead. Older painted toys and cribs should also be tested or kept away from babies if there is a risk they may have been painted with paint containing lead. Unfortunately toys continue to be recalled due to high lead content in paint, so be sure to keep up to date on product recalls to ensure your baby's toys are safe. Even small doses of lead can slow growth, reduce IQ, damage kidneys, and may also cause behavior and learning problems and attention deficits.

1. Does your home have a smoke detector? Yes No
2. Does your child always ride a helmet when riding a bike? Yes No
3. We have a fire escape safety plan that everyone in my family knows. Yes No
4. Children should never be left unattended in or near water (including the bathtub, lakes, or swimming pools). Yes No
5. Do you have a list of emergency numbers everyone in your family has access to? Yes No

Bonus question: What does a toilet paper roll tube have to do with baby safety?

Use the toilet paper roll tube and several small toys or other items to demonstrate how to test for safety.

If a toy or other item fits through a toilet paper tube, it can fit down a baby's throat posing a choking hazard. You can buy a plastic toy tester, but a toilet paper tube works just as well. Be sure floors, cribs, and other areas where baby plays are free of small things that could make their way into a curious baby's mouth. Also, always examine toys carefully to ensure they do not have any small parts that could come off.