

simply impossible to completely protect infants and small children from all potential dangers without placing them in a sterile, impractical environment. However, many childhood deaths continue to occur as a result of preventable injuries. Nurses must be aware of the possible causes of injury in each age group to provide anticipatory, preventive teaching. For example, the nurse should discuss guidelines for injury prevention during infancy (see [Box 9-1](#)) before the child reaches the susceptible age group. Preventive teaching ideally begins during pregnancy.

One third of all injuries to children occur in the home, and therefore the importance of safety cannot be overemphasized. The [Family-Centered Care](#) box summarizes a home safety checklist that can be presented to parents to increase their awareness of danger areas in the home and assist them in implementing safety devices and practices *before* their absence can inflict injury on infants. Hands-on displays (such as cabinet latches or toilet seat locks) can familiarize parents with inexpensive, commercial devices that can be used in the home to prevent injuries.

Family-Centered Care

Child Safety Home Checklist

Safety: Fire, Electrical, Burns

- Guards in front of or around any heating appliance, fireplace, or furnace (including floor furnace)*
- Electrical wires hidden or out of reach*
- No frayed or broken wires; no overloaded sockets
- Plastic guards or caps over electrical outlets; furniture in front of outlets*
- Hanging tablecloths out of reach away from open fires*
- Smoke detectors tested and operating properly
- Kitchen matches stored out of child's reach*