


Age	Development characteristics	Main risk	Main dangers	Some advice
1 week to 1 month		Falls	• Bed, baby scale, changing table, sofa	• Do not leave the child alone on the changing table • Use a changing table with sides, change on the ground
		Burns	• Feeding bottle temperature (re use of microwave ovens), hot-water bottle, bath	• Check the bath temperature with your elbow, check the temperature of the liquids
		Drowning	• Bath	• Suitable bathtub and/or support seat • Do not leave the child alone
about 2 to 3 months	• Crawling • Can turn on his/her side	Asphyxia / suffocation	• Cords, small chains on neck, bars on bed, fabric sides of bed, coins, small objects	• No cords, no animals in the bedroom, max. 6.5cm gaps between bars on bed, no pillow
		Car	• Falls/bangs if the child is not attached to a baby car seat suitable given his/her age and weight	• Never put the baby car seat in the front of a car with a passenger airbag • Use a baby car seat that meets safety standards, suitable given age and weight of the child • Do not leave the child alone in a car
about 4 to 6 months	• Touches everything within reach • Puts things in his/her mouth • Turns from his/her back onto his/her stomach	Falls	• Changing tables, baby walkers, stairs, furniture, bed, high chairs, prams	• Gates at the top and the bottom of stairs, child seatbelted in prams, corners of tables
		Burns	• Hot taps, tablecloths, bathtubs, hot liquids on coffee tables, oven doors	• Place mats, turn on cold water taps before turning on hot water taps
		Drowning	• Bathtubs, swimming pools, lakes, rivers, sea, canals, etc.	• Bath: supporting device, baby never alone, even if water is not very deep, non-slip mat
		Asphyxia / suffocation	• Chain around neck, cords, plastic bags	• Avoid having objects within reach of baby, objects to be at least the size of a table tennis ball
about 9 to 12 months	• Can stand up using a support • Can sit up unsupported • Takes hold of small objects • Lets go of objects deliberately • Touches everything • Changes position: sitting, on all fours, standing up	Intoxication	• Alcohol on coffee table, medication, cleaning products, insecticides, toxic plants	• Do not leave these items lying around, put them out of baby's reach
		Foreign bodies	• Small objects (buttons, thumb tacks, toys, etc.), small-sized food (nuts, etc.)	• No toys with small parts, put them out of baby's reach
		Electrocution	• Sockets, electrical appliances and wires, extension leads connected to mains power but not to an appliance	• Plug guards, safety sockets, put away electrical wires and appliances
		Cuts	• Objects that can break, sharp objects	• Put them away, out of reach
		Car	• Falls/bangs if the child is not attached to a suitable baby car seat	• Use a baby car seat that meets safety standards, suitable given age of baby, on the back seat • Never leave a child alone in a car
about 18 months	• Walks and goes up stairs alone, walks backwards • Goes up and down stairs supporting himself/herself on walls/balustrades • Is starting to use cups and spoons • Curious about everything, wants to taste and touch everything	Falls	• Stairs, carts, furniture, windows, balconies, bunk beds, slippery carpets and rugs, playgrounds	• Gates fitted to stairs, window safety devices, no chairs on balconies / in front of windows, non-slip carpets and rugs, stable furniture
		Burns	• Hot water taps, ovens, cooking pots, irons, humidifiers, hot liquids	• Cooker/oven protection devices, cooking pot handles turned to the inside, hot food out of reach
		Drowning	• Swimming pools, rivers, lakes, canals, etc., bathtubs	• Never leave baby alone, familiarise with water as soon as possible
		Asphyxia / suffocation	• Plastic bags	• Put plastic bags out of reach of baby
		Foreign bodies	• Small objects in body openings – mouth, ears, nose, etc.	• No toys with small parts, put out of reach (objects to be at least the size of a table tennis ball)
about 24 months	• Copies people around him/her • Understands simple explanations	Intoxication	• Medication, cosmetics, cleaning products, insecticides, toxic berries and plants	• Do not leave these items lying around, put them away at a min. height of 1.6 metres
		Bites	• Your own or other people's pets	• Do not leave child alone with animals, respect animals' territory, especially when they are eating
about 3 years old	• Opens drawers and doors • Unscrews recipients • Puts on wooden pearls • Asks questions	Electrocution	• Plugged-in appliances, extension leads/electric wires connected to mains power with no appliances plugged into them	• Unplug appliances, put away equipment
		Cuts	• Objects that could break, sharp objects, lawnmowers	• Put them away out of child's reach, make sure there are no objects that could fall over and onto child
		Car	• Falls/bangs of the child is not strapped into a suitable baby car seat	• Use a baby car seat that meets quality standards, suitable given age, fitted to the back seat of the vehicle • Do not leave child alone in car
		Dangers outdoors	• Lifts, garage, streets, playgrounds, swimming pools	• Talk to your child: you will now be able to explain dangers to him/her • Check ground surface in playgrounds (hard?), light-coloured cloths if he/she is in the street
about 4 years old	• Curious, discovering things • Identifies with adults and imitates them • Wants to do things on his/her own	Falls	• Stairs, windows, balconies, bunk beds • Bikes	• Gates fitted to stairs, window safety devices, no chairs in front of balconies and windows, non-slip rugs and carpets, teach child how to go down stairs safely • Helmet when cycling
		Burns	• Matches, lighters, candles, fireworks, ovens, cooking pots, barbecues	• From age 3½, teach your child to feel the heat of objects, keep matches and lighters out of child's reach
		Drowning	• Rivers, lakes, canals, ponds, etc., swimming pools	• Never leave the child alone, teach him/her to swim as soon as possible, cover ponds, swimming pools, etc. outside your home
		Intoxication	• Cleaning products, medication, cosmetics, toxic berries, mushrooms, and plants	• Do not leave these items lying around, put them away at a minimum height of 1.6 metres • Explain to your child why he/she should not eat these things
about 5/6 years old	• Getting more independent • Cannot assess the speed of a vehicle • Identifies with adults and copies them	Bites	• Your own or other people's pets	• Respect animals' territory, be careful when petting them, especially when they are eating
		Electrocution	• Hairdryers, drills and other electrical appliances	• Do not use electrical appliances in humid environments (bathrooms, etc.), use safety sockets, unplug appliances when they are not in use
		Cuts	• Sharp objects, food cans, Do it Yourself and gardening tools	• Put them away out of your child's reach
		Car	• Falls/bangs if the child is not strapped into a suitable baby car seat	• Use a baby car seat that meets safety standards, suitable given age, on the back seat • Do not leave children alone in cars

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- **Avoid leaving your child alone**
  - **Set a good example**
  - **Praise your child when he/she behaves correctly**



# QUICK REFERENCE DOMESTIC

ACCIDENT PREVENTION GUIDE  
FOR CHILDREN BETWEEN  
0 AND 5 YEARS OLD

[www.pipades.ch](http://www.pipades.ch)



Programme to prevent accidents  
happening to children

PIPADES

AVASAD - Association vaudoise d'aide et de soins à domicile  
CRIPE - Centre de référence des infirmières petite enfance  
Avenue de Rhodanie 60  
1014 Lausanne  
021 623 36 28  
[info@pipades.ch](mailto:info@pipades.ch)  
2023

anglais

## Health emergencies: call 144

This can cause serious brain damage that can lead to disability  
or even death.  
Does your baby's crying upset you?  
Put him/her in his/her bed, leave the room and call  
a trusted person or a professional.

# Never shake a baby!

