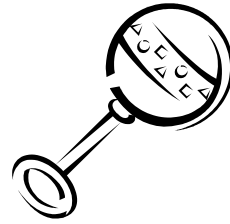


# Baby Safety



## True Story

*A 9-month old was moving himself around the kitchen in his baby walker. He pushed the walker up to a kitchen island where a working crock-pot was plugged in. He pulled on the cord, and the pot and its contents fell on top of him. The cause of death was multiple complications of thermal burns.*

-From the files of MECAP  
(Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project)

## The Facts

- Approximately 2.5 million children each year are hurt in falls. Stairs are particularly dangerous, and falls from stairs tend to result in more-severe injuries.
- Baby walkers account for more injuries than any other nursery product.
- It takes just three seconds for a child to sustain third degree burns from water at 140 degrees F, which would require hospitalization and skin grafts.
- Each year approximately 50 infants suffocate or strangle when they become trapped between broken crib parts or in cribs with older, unsafe designs.

## What You Can Do

- Use safety gates at both the top and bottom of stairs to keep infants and children safe.
- Never use baby walkers on wheels. Use walker alternatives or stationary activity centers.
- Set hot water heaters no higher than 120 degrees F to reduce the chance of scald burns.
- A crib should have slats no more than 2 3/8 inches apart and a firm, snug fitting mattress.



Led By

**BLANK CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL**  
IOWA HEALTH SYSTEM

Safe Kids Greater Des Moines, led by Blank Children's Hospital, is a grassroots organization dedicated to preventing unintentional injury in children ages 0-14.

For more information call (515) 241-6293 or visit [www.dsmsafekids.org](http://www.dsmsafekids.org).