

Kitchen Safety



True Story

A 9-month-old boy was moving himself around his 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. His baby sitter tried unsuccessfully to catch the pot but only burned her hands. The boy died of complications of burns to the skin.

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

The Facts

- The kitchen is the most dangerous room of the home.
- The most common injuries in the kitchen are burns and scalds.
- Young children are at greatest risk for injury in the kitchen.
- An electric burner coil can reach a temperature of 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit. This is hot enough to catch clothing on fire, even after the burner is turned off.
- An oven door can get hot enough to burn a child who might fall or lean against it. It can be particularly dangerous for a child just learning how to walk.

What You Can Do

- Teach children that the kitchen is not a place to play.
- Always supervise young children in the kitchen.
- Do not allow children younger than age 10 to remove food from the microwave.
- Don't store cookies or other "treats" near the stove, which might tempt young children to climb on the stove to reach them.
- Turn the handles of pots and pans on the stove inward so children can't reach them.
- Be careful not to leave cups or other containers of hot fluids where children can reach them.
- Keep the temperature of hot water below 120 degrees Fahrenheit by turning down the temperature of your hot water heater.

*Source: American Red Cross, Geocities.com,
University of Wyoming, City of Tempe, AZ*



Led By

**BLANK CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**
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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.

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