

Teaching Your Kids How to Keep the House Safe

Home safety is more than just protecting your home from outside factors. It's protecting it from mishaps within the home as well. With the day-to-day hustle of family life, it can be easy to forget to take steps to make your home safer. Getting your kids involved is one way to feel secure around the house and can teach them the importance of a safe home. And it's never too early to start; there are simple ways your kids can do their part every day.

Keeping an eye out

Teaching your kids to be mindful of everyday risks will help them know what to look for. Things like loose cords and liquids on the kitchen floor can cause falls that may result in injury, so make sure they know to clean up spills and tuck cords back where they don't stick out. Putting other items away like toys, shoes, and backpacks can also help everyone avoid tripping or stepping on them.

Show your kids how electricity works, and make sure they're careful around lamps, sockets, and outlets. Also, help them practice good kitchen safety by showing them the dos and don'ts of heat, blades, and appliances. Plus, while you want your kids to be independent, it's useful to set boundaries for what they shouldn't try to do by themselves. And let them know that if they need your help with a task, you'll be there to help them out.

Preparing for the unexpected

In addition to helping your kids get a good grasp on what to do to keep your home safe, you can teach them how to keep it secure. Remind them to come get you if someone they don't recognize comes to the door, and make sure they know to say you "can't come to the phone" if someone calls for you while you're unavailable. So they know they're secure, show them what the doors and windows look like both locked and unlocked.

Another important thing to teach your kids is what to do in case of an emergency like a fire or if a parent gets hurt. Teach them how to dial 911 as well as what to say, and if your kids are old enough, practice dialing emergency contacts – just in case.

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