

POINTERS FOR PARENTS

Tips For Keeping Baby Protected At Home

(NAPSA)—The moment you bring your new baby home from the hospital, an inevitable world of falls, cuts, bumps and scrapes awaits. According to Safe Kids USA, falls are the leading cause of unintentional injury to children. Every year, more than two million children are treated in hospital emergency rooms for fall-related injuries and more than 80 percent of these falls occur inside the home.

“All the hazards of home may not be visible to parents, but babies are natural explorers and will quickly discover various household dangers,” says Dr. Tanya Altmann, pediatrician and member of the Evenflo Safe Baby and Toddler Council. “Parents need to choose strong safety gates and reliable nursery monitors when babyproofing their home. There are a number of new innovations in gates and monitors that will help keep baby safe and put parents’ minds at ease.”

Dr. Altmann recommends choosing a secure metal safety gate, which is designed for various household spaces and is one of the sturdiest models on the market. Here are tips to help you decide among the variety of gates available:

- For busy households, pick a gate that swings in both directions and offers a slam latch to easily secure the door.
- For added security and convenience, choose a metal gate with four-point pressure mounting and additional accessories that make installation simple even on non-wall surfaces.
- Choose a sturdy gate that blends in with your home décor. The newest gate designs feature



A monitor helps parents stay connected to baby.

stylish materials and rounded edges for a softer look around the home.

Not only do you need to secure your home with a safety gate, but Dr. Altmann stresses the importance of having a reliable and clear connection to baby at all times. Newer models of nursery monitors, like the Whisper Connect from Evenflo, include two-way communication, unit-finder alert and various lights that clearly and conveniently monitor baby. Busy parents who need freedom of movement can use a monitor that includes a belt clip and a range of up to 650 feet. An economical option is a monitor that runs on rechargeable batteries but make sure it's also equipped with a low-battery indicator.

Dr. Altmann says company Web sites are helpful in finding the products to keep babies safe and address parents' individual needs. On Evenflo's Web site, evenflo.com, parents can access the unique Gate Selector Application or scan through the variety of nursery monitors to easily customize their home safety systems.



Editor's Note: Although this story may be used at anytime, September is National Safe Baby Month.