

Safe & Sound for baby

a guide to baby product safety,
selection & use



Juvenile Products
Manufacturers Association

www.jpma.org



Safe & Sound

for baby

Creating a safe environment for baby is the best thing you can do to ensure the first years are happy and healthy. Raising your bundle of joy takes care and knowledge. Being more aware of the products in and around your home is just another step that will become second nature as your baby grows.

To help you create a safe environment, the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA) developed this informative booklet, which highlights the products you might need or want for your baby and how to use them correctly. The booklet also provides product tips to consider when taking care of your baby. Additionally, there are a few basic facts to ALWAYS remember:



- **Adult Supervision** – The only sure-fire way to keep your baby safe is through direct supervision when juvenile products are in use.



- **Read Instructions and Warnings** – For the safest product use, be sure to always read and follow all manufacturer's instructions and warning labels.



- **Second-Hand Products** – Second-hand products should not be used for baby because they may not meet the most current safety standards. However, if it is necessary to use older products, make sure they have all the safety features outlined in this booklet, all original parts and instructions are available, the product is fully functional, not broken, and has not been recalled. To check if your product has been recalled visit www.recalls.gov.



- **Safest Option** – Keep in mind that new products meeting current safety standards are the safest option.



- **Inspection During Use** – Don't forget to frequently inspect products for missing hardware, loose threads and strings, holes, and tears.



- **Discontinue Use** – Monitor your child's growth and development. Discontinue using a product as your baby reaches the age or development limits defined by the manufacturer.

A new baby brings joy to your life,

a life that will change for the better in an exciting way. By using this booklet as a point of reference, you and your baby will enjoy many smiling moments to come.



Certification Program

The first step in keeping your baby safe is careful selection of juvenile products. To help with your decisions, JPMA has developed a unique certification program and certification seal that have been guiding parents and caregivers for more than 35 years. As a parent, you understand the importance of product safety, quality, and performance. The participants in the JPMA Certification Program certainly do as well.

The Certification Process

STEP 1

ASTM Standards are Developed

Committees
include:
JPMA manufacturers, retailers,
test labs, consumer groups
and staff from the U.S.
Consumer Product Safety
Commission (CPSC)
and Health Canada

STEP 2

Product Sample Submitted for Testing

Each product model made
by the manufacturer in
each product
category
is submitted
for testing.



STEP 3

Testing

Testing occurs
at a certified
independent
laboratory.



STEP 4

Certification Criteria Met

Manufacturer must meet the
following to receive certification:

- ✓ ASTM Standard
- ✓ Federal Laws
- ✓ State Laws
- ✓ Retailer Requirements

STEP 5

Certification is Achieved



DID YOU KNOW?

More than 2,000 products are JPMA Certified

Why buy JPMA Certified Products? Because as a parent you are safety conscious and product savvy!

- ✓ The seal exemplifies a manufacturer's commitment to safety.
- ✓ The seal proves that a manufacturer has tested their product annually to an established standard.
- ✓ JPMA Certification on a product means quality, safety, performance, and functionality.
- ✓ Manufacturers participating in the certification program are held to high standards and are obligated to meet those principles with every product.
- ✓ JPMA Certified products go through an extra set of rigorous testing above the standard requirements.
- ✓ The JPMA Certification Program has been helping parents purchase products for their baby for over 35 years.



If you are interested in a product, but unsure if it is JPMA certified, ask your retailer for assistance or call the manufacturer directly. As an alternative, you can also visit www.jpma.org for a listing of certified product manufacturers for each **product category**.

Be sure to look for the JPMA Certification Seal on the product or retail package for added assurance the product was built with safety in mind.

Bassinets/Cradles & Bedside Sleepers

A bassinet or bedside sleeper is likely to be the first bed for your baby. While it is perfectly safe to introduce your baby to a full-sized crib from the onset, traditionally parents use a bassinet or bedside sleeper for the first few weeks or months of a baby's life.

TIPS for selecting product

- Look for one with a sturdy bottom and wide, stable base.
- The mattress or mattress pad should fit snugly and be firm and smooth.
- Swinging cradles should have a way to keep them from swinging once a baby is asleep.
- Look for the JPMA Certification Seal.



TIPS for use

- Follow the manufacturer's guidelines on the appropriate weight and size.
- Only use the mattress provided by the manufacturer. Never use pillows or add extra padding.
- Check screws and bolts periodically to ensure they are tight.
- Bedside sleepers must be properly secured to the adult bed using the attachment system.
- If the product has legs that fold for storage, make sure that locks provided ensure the legs do not accidentally fold while in use.
- Decorative bows and ribbons should be trimmed short and stitched securely to prevent strangulation.



Bath Seats & Infant Bath Tubs

A **bath seat**, bath ring or infant bath tub gives your child added support while bathing, but is not a replacement for adult supervision. Keep the following in mind while using a bath seat, bath ring or infant bath tub:

TIPS for selecting product

- Bath seats and bath rings should only be used with babies who are capable of sitting upright unassisted. Discontinue use when a baby can pull to a standing position.
- Follow the manufacturer's guidelines on the appropriate weight and size.
- Look for the **JPMA Certification Seal**.



TIPS for use

- **Collect all bathing materials before starting a bath.**
- Always assemble and use a bath seat/ring according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- The typical water temperature for bathing a baby should be between 90° and 100°F.
- Place the product in the adult tub where baby cannot reach the faucet or spout.
- Do not lift a bath tub or bath seat/ring with the baby in it.
- After running a minimum amount of warm water in the adult tub, carefully place baby into the bath seat/ring.
- If bath seat/ring moves or tips while your baby is in it, discontinue use.
- Infant bath tubs should only be used in a sink, on the floor or in an adult tub. When used in a sink or adult tub, always keep the drain open. Never keep any water in an adult tub when an infant bath tub is being used.



Carriages & Strollers

Carriages and strollers perform a tremendous service for parents and caregivers by making it easier to safely transport a child. Now, more than ever, there are so many to choose from. Whichever style you select, be sure you follow these easy tips for safe use:

TIPS for selecting product

- Check for adjustments that reduce the size of seat or leg openings in the front to prevent your baby from falling out when seat back is reclined into the flat position.
- Choose a carriage or stroller that has a base wide enough to prevent tipping, even when your baby leans over the side.
- If your stroller has a shopping basket for carrying packages, it should be low on the back of the stroller or directly over the rear wheels.
- If the seat adjusts to a reclining position, make sure the carriage or stroller doesn't tip backwards when the child lies down.
- Look for the **JPMA Certification Seal**.



TIPS for use

- ALWAYS secure the baby by using the restraint straps.
- Don't hang pocketbooks or shopping bags over the handles.
- Use the locking device to prevent accidental folding.
- Never leave your child unattended in a stroller. Always keep them within view.
- Apply the brakes to limit rotation of the wheels when stroller is stationary.
- Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions and utilize the specific features to block the leg openings when the stroller is in the fully reclined position.
- When you fold or unfold the stroller, keep the baby's hands away from the areas that could pinch tiny fingers.



Carriers (Soft/Frame) & Slings

Carriers and slings continue to grow in popularity with parents and caregivers. A carrier or sling provides comfort and security for the baby while providing you with some hands-free time.

TIPS for selecting product

- If you use a soft carrier, select one made of a durable, washable fabric with sturdy, adjustable straps.
- Baby should fit snugly in the carrier with the head supported and weight evenly distributed.
- A frame-style carrier can be used when baby can sit up unassisted.
- Look for the JPMA Certification Seal.



TIPS for use


- Read and follow all manufacturer's instructions for use, age and weight recommendations.
- Attend to and check on baby often. Be sure that baby is not hunched with chin touching chest.
- Babies in carriers must face towards you until he or she can hold their head upright.
- A carrier or sling should only be used when walking with your baby. Be careful of tripping (over toys, curbs, etc.) while walking with baby.
- Carriers and slings should not be used for transporting baby in a car or bicycle.
- Be sure baby's weight is evenly distributed in the carrier and all safety straps are secured.
- Always make sure your baby has plenty of airflow.
- Take extra precaution carrying a baby that is at risk including those born prematurely or with health conditions or younger than four months old.
- Check for ripped seams, sharp edges, and missing or loose snaps.



Swings & Infant Seats/Bouncers

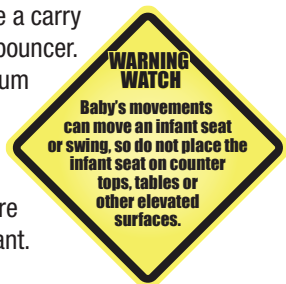
If your baby responds well to motion, a [swing or bouncer seat](#) can provide comfort for baby and much-needed hands-free time for mom or dad. Many of today's styles are functional as well as entertaining.

TIPS for selecting product

- **Infant Swings** – Select a swing with strong posts, legs, and a wide stance to prevent tipping.
- **Bouncer seats** – For in-home use only. Many have bouncing action, soothing vibration, and/or toys for play.
- Look for the **JPMA Certification Seal**. 

TIPS for use


- Always keep baby in eye sight while using products.
- NEVER place on beds, sofas, or other soft surfaces. Infant seats or bouncers can roll over and suffocate a baby.
- ALWAYS secure the restraining straps and never leave a baby in the seat or swing when straps are loose or undone.
- It's time to stop using your swing once baby becomes too active and is able to climb out of the swing.
- If the toy bar is not intended to be a carry handle do not use it to carry the bouncer.
- Follow the manufacturer's minimum and maximum weight and age requirements.
- Check for appropriate battery usage and remove batteries before storing for use with your next infant.



Changing Tables

A **changing table** in the nursery provides a safe and convenient place to change and dress baby. There are many different types of changing tables, including those that have a built-in dresser or add-on units that can be used on other furniture. Whichever version you choose, be sure to follow these tips when changing baby:

TIPS for selecting product

- Look for a **changing table** with elevated sides that help prevent the baby from falling.
- For add-on units, before leaving home, measure the length and width of the changing area available on the dresser and compare to the requirements for the add-on unit before purchasing. Check for attachment requirements.
- Look for the **JPMA Certification Seal**. 

TIPS for use

- ALWAYS use the restraint system to control baby when the changing table is in use.
- ALWAYS keep one hand on the baby
- Be sure any baby products you need, such as diapers or wipes, are within arm's reach.
- NEVER turn your back on the baby when reaching for baby products.

WARNING WATCH

To prevent falls
NEVER leave the
baby unattended, even
for the shortest
moment.



Car Seats and Belt Positioning Booster Car Seats

An important responsibility begins with selecting a child car seat and using it properly from the moment you bring baby home to every car ride after that. All 50 states have laws that require the use of a car seat. All car seats manufactured today are designed to meet stringent safety standards set by the federal government.

Here are a few things to remember for proper use and installation of a child's car seat and belt positioning booster car seat.

TIPS for selecting product

- It is vital the car seat/booster is appropriate for a child's age, weight, and height.

TIPS for use

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for both the vehicle and the car seat or booster car seat.
- The back seat is the safest place for children under 13 to ride. Never place a rear-facing car seat in a seating location with a frontal air bag unless the air bag can be turned off.
- Always anchor the car seat to the car using the LATCH attachment system or vehicle seat belt exactly as directed by the car seat manufacturer.

PRODUCT TRANSITIONS

Rear-Facing



- Children should ride rear-facing until 2 years old, or longer if possible. Riding rear-facing provides the best protection for young children. Some children will outgrow an infant seat before 2 and will need a convertible seat to continue riding rear-facing.

Forward-Facing



- Once your child outgrows the rear-facing height or weight limit of the car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness. Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height and weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer.
- Always use the top tether when installing a forward-facing car seat. The tether reduces movement of a car seat in a crash and helps to achieve a tight installation.

Booster Seat



- Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.
- When using a booster car seat, make sure the child is mature enough to sit still for the entire ride and the seat belt is fitting properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face.
- Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in the adult seat properly, usually when the child reaches 4'9" tall.

GOOD TO KNOW

- **Do not** use a car seat or booster car seat...
that is used, especially if it is more than six years old.
that has ever been involved in a crash.
that is missing the manufacturer's label showing the name of the manufacturer, model number, and date of manufacture.
- **Car seats expire!** Check your labels for the expiration date (typically about six years from the date of manufacture).
- **Ensure everyone in the car is buckled up!** Unrestrained passengers can be thrown around in a sudden stop or crash, possibly being injured and/or injuring others in the car.
- **Air Travel** – Taking your child's car seat along when traveling is recommended. Most car seats are approved for use on aircraft. Booster car seats are not approved because a lap and shoulder belt are not available on the aircraft. Pack your booster car seat as luggage so you have it at your destination.

WARNING WATCH

A car seat should
not move more than
one inch from the vehicle seat
back or side-to-side from
where it is attached.




Full-Size Cribs and Nursery Accessories

This first “home” should be cheerful and secure. Each year hundreds of deaths occur when children are placed in a sleep environment that is not specifically designed for children. With some careful planning, naptime and nighttime can be a pleasant experience for both you and your baby. Make every night a safe night!

FYI: *Cribs produced after December 2010 must meet new federal standards. Many older cribs, including the one that was used for you or your younger children, may not meet all current safety standards. Contact your manufacturer to confirm if it does.*

TIPS for selecting product

- **Infants should ALWAYS sleep in a crib that meets current federal and ASTM standards.**
- The crib mattress should fit snugly with no more than two fingers width, one-inch, between the edge of the mattress and the crib side, because the baby can get trapped between the mattress and the side of the crib if larger gaps are present.
- **Do not use a pillow-like crib bumpers.**
- Look for the **JPMA Certification Seal.** 

TIPS for use

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- It is recommended that second-hand products not be used for baby. However, if it is necessary to use older products, make sure they have all of the safety features outlined and have not been recalled. To check if your product has been recalled visit **www.recalls.gov**.
- **NEVER** place the crib near windows, draperies, blinds, or **wall-mounted decorative accessories with long cords.**
- Check your crib often and make sure there are no missing, loose, broken, or improperly installed screws, brackets or other hardware on the crib or the mattress support. Replacement hardware should be ordered directly from your crib manufacturer.
- **Never use glue,** duct tape, cable ties or other makeshift repairs to fix a broken crib. If a crib is broken it should be discarded.
- Crib slats or spindles should be spaced no more than 2 3/8" apart, and none should be loose or missing.
- Never use a crib with corner posts over 1/16 of an inch above the end panels (unless they're over 16" high for a canopy). Babies can strangle if their clothes become caught on corner posts.
- **ALWAYS** use a crib sheet that fits securely on the mattress, wraps around the mattress corners and remains secure.

- Ensure there is no cracked or peeling paint, splinters or rough edges.
- Be sure to set the mattress to the lowest position when your child is able to pull to a standing position.
- **Drop-side cribs** are no longer available for purchase; however, if you are using a **previously purchased drop-side crib**, be sure the drop side or any other moving part operates smoothly and there is no missing hardware. Remember to always secure the moveable side when baby is in the crib.



Nursery Crib Accessories

- Mobiles should be removed when baby can pull up.
- If using **bumper pads**, remove when the child can pull up to a standing position to prevent your baby from using them to climb out of the crib.
- **Keep baby monitors out of the reach of your baby.** Three feet away is where your monitor should stay. Do not put a baby monitor in or on the edge of a crib, or any other sleeping environment.
- **Never place any item in or on the crib that has cords, strings, etc.** as babies can become entangled in or strangled by these items.

FOR BABIES UNDER 12 MONTHS...

- Normal, healthy infants should ALWAYS sleep on their backs unless otherwise advised by pediatrician.
- Only a fitted sheet, mattress pad, and/or waterproof pad should be used under baby.
- **Never use pillows, quilts, comforters, sheepskins, pillow-like stuffed toys, or other pillow-like products in the crib.**
- Do not overdress your baby. Consider using a wearable blanket or other sleep clothing as an alternative to any covering. For newborns, consider swaddling.



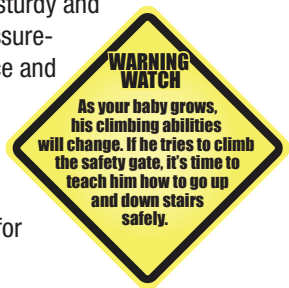
For more safe sleep tips, visit www.cribsafety.org


Gates and Enclosures

When baby can crawl, it's time to block doorways and stairways

with gates. If you choose a hardware-mounted gate, it is attached to surrounding walls or door frames with screws. Hardware-mounted models can take longer to install, but are very sturdy and should be used for the top of staircases. A pressure-mounted gate relies on pressure to stay in place and is great for doorways, where they fit easily.

No matter what gate you choose or how many gates you decide to install, be sure to ALWAYS follow all manufacturer's instructions for installation and use.



- Select the right gate for your needs. Before leaving home, measure the opening size at the location the gate will be used.
- Consider the location of the gate. Pressure-mounted gates should NOT be used at the top of stairs.
- Look for the JPMA Certification Seal. 




- Gates with expanding pressure bars should be installed with the adjustment bar or lock side away from the baby.
- Anchor the gate securely in the doorway or stairway.
- Always close the gate when you leave the room and never leave the baby unattended.
- Avoid the old style accordion-type gates that pose a strangulation hazard. The newly designed and manufactured accordion gates meet safety standards.
- Some gates are not appropriate for use at the top of a stairway. Check the product recommendations.
- Do not climb or step over baby gates, especially while holding baby.

Handheld Infant Carriers

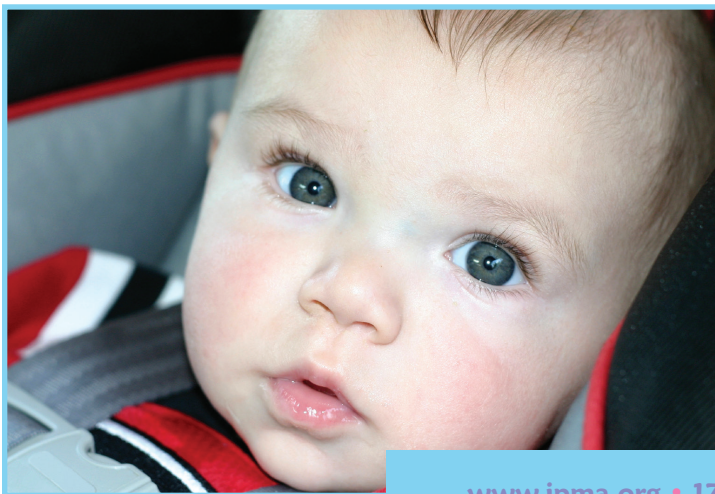
A **handheld infant carrier** is a convenient product for parents to carry baby from one place to another. Most handheld infant carriers come as travel systems that can lock into a car seat base or a stroller base. Some handheld bassinet products sit directly on the floor without legs or a stand and are used for sleep.

TIPS for selecting product

- Determine if your carrier will be used with your car seat base and if you will be purchasing a complete travel system (stroller, handheld infant carrier and car seat base).
- If you are purchasing a handheld bassinet carrier, remember that it cannot be used as a car seat.
- Some handheld bassinet carriers also attach to strollers as well.
- Look for the **JPMA Certification Seal**. 

TIPS for use

- ALWAYS secure all restraining straps and never leave a baby in the seat or swing when straps are loose or undone.
- Never place a carrier near edges of counter tops, tables, or other elevated surfaces.
- Remember, some infant carriers are not approved for use in a motor vehicle. Be sure to check the warnings and instructions to ensure the product can be used as a car seat.
- Be sure that products are secure when attached to the strollers or bases.
- Make sure that your stroller or car seat base is compatible with your handheld infant carrier. Look for the manufacturer's recommendation.



High Chairs & Booster Seats

When baby is hungry and ready to eat, feeding time can be hectic. By using a certified product and following these simple guidelines, a [high chair or a booster seat](#) can be a great way to enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner.



TIPS for selecting product

- High chairs should have a waist strap and crotch strap.
- Some high chairs and booster seats recline for use with younger babies or are height adjustable.
- Look for the [JPMA Certification Seal](#).



TIPS for use

- Use waist and crotch restraint every time you place a child in the high chair to prevent falls from standing up or sliding out.
- Always secure your child using the booster seat restraints until your child is around 2 ½ years old, when they are able to get in and out of the booster seat without help.
- Never depend on the feeding tray to restrain or protect baby. Instead, secure restraint straps.
- Always check that your booster seat is securely attached to the adult chair. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use.
- Products that recline should only be used in the upright position by children capable of sitting upright unassisted.
- Secure the safety latch on a folding high chair each time you unfold it for use.
- NEVER leave a baby unattended.

FEEDING TIPS



- When feeding a baby, first test all warmed foods for a comfortable eating temperature before serving.
- Heating baby food in a microwave is convenient, but be sure to check the temperature very carefully. Use microwave-safe dishes and stir food from the center out after heating to ensure temperature is even.
- When baby begins to eat solids, do not give the child small, hard foods. Check with your pediatrician for a list of appropriate foods.
- Remember, a baby should always eat and drink in an upright position. Avoid propping a bottle on baby.

Play Yards/Non-Full-Size Cribs

Play yards provide for a safe sleeping environment when away from home. Choose a play yard or non-full-size crib with the correct recommended height and weight of the child.



- **Choose a play yard** with mesh holes no larger than 1/4".
- Slats on a wooden play yard should be no more than 2 3/8" apart.
- Look for the **JPMA Certification Seal**.



- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- The play yard, including side rails, should be fully erected prior to use.
- Make sure all latching features of the play yard are in place and secure.
- Always provide the supervision necessary for the continued safety of your child. When used for playing, never leave child unattended.
- **Do not add objects to the play yard during sleep.**
- Infants can suffocate in gaps between a mattress that is too small or too thick and the sides of a play yard. Only use the mattress provided by the manufacturer.
- NEVER leave a baby in a mesh play yard if one of the rails is in the down position. The baby could climb out or strangle on the dropped rail.
- **NEVER place the crib near windows, draperies, blinds, or wall-mounted decorative accessories with long cords.**
- Check vinyl or fabric-covered rails frequently for holes and tears. Check for loose or missing fasteners, loose joints or broken parts and contact the manufacturer for replacement parts.
- Don't tie items across the top of the play yard as they can entangle a baby and cause strangulation.



Portable Bed Rails

Similar to training wheels on a bicycle, **portable bed rails** are a transition aid that provides added safety for children who have graduated from the toddler bed to an adult bed, helping to prevent a child from falling out of bed.

TIPS for selecting product

- Some beds have built-in bed rails but a **portable bed rail** is for use only with an adult mattress and box spring.
- Look for the mattress thickness specified on the product package to ensure the bedrail fits your bed before making a purchase.
- Remember that you may need two bedrails, one for each side of the bed.
- Look for the **JPMA Certification Seal**.



TIPS for use

- **Always follow the manufacturer's instructions** for assembly and use.
- Use a bed rail only with standard innerspring mattress and box spring.
- Do not use a bed rail on a bunk bed, water mattress, or bed without a box spring.
- Shifting can occur when the bed is being made. Check often to ensure the bed rail is pressed firmly against the mattress when in use to prevent dangerous gaps.

Portable Hook-On Chairs

As you head out for dinner at your favorite family restaurant, don't forget the **portable hook-on chair** for baby.

TIPS for selecting product

- Chair should have a strong clamp-on device, which keeps the seat level, making it impossible for a baby to kick off.
- Look for the **JPMA Certification Seal**.



TIPS for use

- Do not use on a glass or loose tabletop, or on a table with a single pedestal, leaf, tablecloth, or placemat.
- Check stability and sturdiness of table before seating a child.
- Do not place an ordinary chair under the portable hook-on chair.
- Before removing baby from chair, make sure baby's legs are free from chair straps.

Stationary Activity Centers

Stationary activity centers can be great fun for your baby. There are many styles to choose from to fit your budget and lifestyle.

TIPS for selecting product

- Product adjustments and features range from height adjustment to rocking, bouncing, and a variety of toys.

Pick the product that best suits your baby.

- Look for the **JPMA Certification Seal**.



TIPS for use

- Never leave your baby unattended in the activity center.
- Keep away from stairs, doors, windows, plants, lamps, the TV, fireplace, heaters, or coffee table.
- Make sure if not new that your activity center is in good, stable condition.
- Be sure to follow manufacturer's recommended age, weight, and height.
- To avoid tip-over, only use the activity center on a flat, level surface.

Toddler Beds

When baby is ready to move out of the crib, be sure to follow these guidelines when **selecting the right toddler bed**:

TIPS for selecting product

- Choose a bed that is low to the ground so there is less chance of injury if your child falls.
- If the product comes with a guardrail, make sure it is at least 5 inches higher than the top surface of the mattress.
- Make sure the bed is sturdy and not in danger of collapsing.
- Look for the **JPMA Certification Seal**.



TIPS for use

- Check the fasteners periodically to make sure they are tight.
- Be sure to use a full-size crib mattress with the dimensions recommended by the manufacturer as explained in the manufacturer's instructions.
- Place bed in room away from windows, heaters, wall lamps, drapes, and blind cords.
- Place headboard against the wall rather than the side of the bed so the child can't become trapped between wall and bed.
- Children more than 50 pounds should transition to an adult bed.



Walkers

Make sure baby's first steps are safe. Most [baby walker](#) accidents happen when a baby is left unattended or has access to items that can injure them.

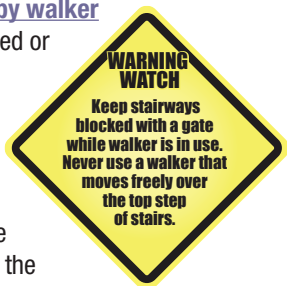
TIPS for selecting product

- [Choose a sturdy walker](#) with the correct recommended height and weight of the baby.
- Select a walker with a wheelbase longer and wider than the tray of the walker to ensure stability.
- Coil springs and hinges of walker must have protective coverings.
- Look for the [JPMA Certification Seal](#).



TIPS for use

- NEVER leave a baby unattended in a walker.
- Only use a walker on smooth surfaces.
- Remove all throw rugs when a baby is in a walker.
- Keep doors closed.
- Keep child away from appliances or items that could cause injury such as ironing boards, ranges, radiators, and fireplaces.
- NEVER carry walker with a child in it.
- A walker should have rubber strips under the lower frame or other design feature that restricts movement at the top of the stairs. Some older models may not have this feature, so be sure to check if you're using a second-hand product.



Pacifiers

TIPS for selecting product

- Make sure a pacifier's protective shield has ventilation holes and is large enough so it can't fit inside a baby's mouth.

TIPS for use

- Take rattles, squeeze toys, teethingers, plush toys, and other items out of baby's crib when baby is sleeping or unattended.
- Check the pacifier frequently for holes or tears.
- Studies have shown pacifiers can be a SIDS-risk reduction measure. Consider offering a pacifier at nap time and bed time; however, do not force an infant to use it.
- Do not reinsert a pacifier after an infant falls asleep and pacifiers should not be coated in any sweet solutions.
- Strings can cause strangulation! Never string a pacifier or any other item around baby's neck



Household Dangers

As a concerned parent or caregiver, your job is to [childproof your home](#) carefully so a baby can safely explore his or her world. It's a good idea to get down on your hands and knees and look around from a baby's perspective.

For example, an ordinary plant can be poisonous if a curious baby decides to taste it. Even toddler toys left lying around by an older sibling should not be in baby's reach. The most important place to have a safe environment is in your home.

When checking your home, it is a good time to be sure a baby does not have access to swimming pools, toilets, cleaning buckets, bathtubs, showers, or hot tubs. It is possible for a baby to drown in as little as one inch of water.

Medicines, bleaches, oven and drain cleaners, paint solvents, polishes, waxes, matches, cigarettes, and lighters are also dangerous to a baby. These should always be kept out of a baby's reach. Childproof safety locks for cabinets can be helpful. Use child-resistant packaging as it can help save a baby's life. Keep the number of the poison control center near your phone so you can call for emergency first-aid advice.

Electrocution

Electrical outlets, appliances, and cords can be safety hazards. Be sure to cover unused electrical outlets with safety caps and replace broken or missing receptacle cover plates. Small appliances, including blow dryers and irons, should be unplugged when not in use and kept out of a baby's reach.

Suffocation and Strangulation

Plastic wrap, dry cleaning, shopping, and garbage bags are everyday items that are dangerous for a baby. They should be kept away from a baby at all times.

Never use plastic shipping bags or other plastic film as mattress covers. A baby should never be allowed to lie or sleep face down on, or next to, pillows, cushions, comforters, or adult waterbeds.

ALWAYS pull drape or blind cords and decorative wall hangings with strings out of a baby's reach. Be aware of this, especially in the nursery, when choosing the location of baby's crib.

Strings can cause strangulation! Never place items with strings around a child's neck, such as hood strings or pacifier cords.

Recalls

It is a good habit to check for recalls before purchasing baby products, especially second-hand, hand-me-down and heirloom products. It's also a good idea to frequently check to ensure the products you are using have not been recalled.

In the United States, a product recall indicates a potential safety hazard or violation was discovered, and some form of corrective action must be taken to rectify the problem. That action, also known as a remedy, may or may not involve returning the product. Often, there is a simple fix that the manufacturer or retailer can provide to alleviate the safety concern.

To check if your product has been recalled visit www.recalls.gov.



Product Registration Cards

The best way to make sure the items you own have not been recalled is to register them. Durable infant and toddler products, including most baby gear items, are now required by law to come with recall-only product registration cards and online registration forms. That means the manufacturer is not allowed to use your information for any purpose other than recall notification.

(Tear off and mail this card)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name (First Name/Last Name)

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Telephone Number

Date of Purchase (MM/DD/YY)

Email Address

Please Note:

Your information is for internal purposes only. We will contact you only if there is a safety alert or recall for this product. We will not distribute or sell your information to any outside party.

Model Number:

Manufacture Date:

A Note About Hand-Me-Down Products

Historically, 80% of recalled products are never returned or fixed. Many of those items continue to be used and are later passed on—often via yard sales, thrift stores and online marketplaces. It means your chances of owning a recalled product can increase when second-hand items are purchased, handed down or borrowed from friends, as is common practice for baby gear.

Buying second-hand or using hand-me-downs can be a great cost-saving measure and is definitely good for the environment, just not at the expense of safety. Therefore, it is extremely important to check for recalls when buying or using second-hand baby gear and to ensure that all second-hand products you purchase meet current safety standards.

Tips for Safe Storage of Juvenile Products

- Save all instructions and keep them with the product. Instructions can also be found on the manufacturer's website.
- Keep all individual product parts together and labeled for future assembly. Put all the screws and bolts in a plastic bag and keep them with each product.
- Don't forget to inspect products for missing hardware, loose threads and strings, holes and tears.
- Store your product in a cool dry place.

Helpful Reminders

Selecting JPMA Certified products is a good first step toward raising a happy, healthy baby. But, it's also very important you use these and all juvenile products correctly every time. Juvenile products are only to be used for the purpose intended by the manufacturer. Most juvenile products do have a long life, but they should be safety-checked frequently. **Always remember juvenile products are not a substitute for parental supervision. Never leave a baby unattended!**

For more information about the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA) please visit www.jpma.org or contact jpma@jpma.org.



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a guide to baby product safety,
selection & use

Stay informed about baby product safety by visiting
www.babysafetyzone.org

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