

BRIGHT FUTURES HANDOUT ► PARENT

5 AND 6 YEAR VISITS



Here are some suggestions from Bright Futures experts that may be of value to your family.

✓ HOW YOUR FAMILY IS DOING

- Spend time with your child. Hug and praise him.
- Help your child do things for himself.
- Help your child deal with conflict.
- If you are worried about your living or food situation, talk with us. Community agencies and programs such as SNAP can also provide information and assistance.
- Don't smoke or use e-cigarettes. Keep your home and car smoke-free. Tobacco-free spaces keep children healthy.
- Don't use alcohol or drugs. If you're worried about a family member's use, let us know, or reach out to local or online resources that can help.

✓ FAMILY RULES AND ROUTINES

- Family routines create a sense of safety and security for your child.
- Teach your child what is right and what is wrong.
- Give your child chores to do and expect them to be done.
- Use discipline to teach, not to punish.
- Help your child deal with anger. Be a role model.
- Teach your child to walk away when she is angry and do something else to calm down, such as playing or reading.

✓ STAYING HEALTHY

- Help your child brush his teeth twice a day
 - After breakfast
 - Before bed
- Use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste with fluoride.
- Help your child floss his teeth once a day.
- Your child should visit the dentist at least twice a year.
- Help your child be a healthy eater by
 - Providing healthy foods, such as vegetables, fruits, lean protein, and whole grains
 - Eating together as a family
 - Being a role model in what you eat
- Buy fat-free milk and low-fat dairy foods. Encourage 2 to 3 servings each day.
- Limit candy, soft drinks, juice, and sugary foods.
- Make sure your child is active for 1 hour or more daily.
- Don't put a TV in your child's bedroom.
- Consider making a family media plan. It helps you make rules for media use and balance screen time with other activities, including exercise.

✓ READY FOR SCHOOL

- Talk to your child about school.
- Read books with your child about starting school.
- Take your child to see the school and meet the teacher.
- Help your child get ready to learn. Feed her a healthy breakfast and give her regular bedtimes so she gets at least 10 to 11 hours of sleep.
- Make sure your child goes to a safe place after school.
- If your child has disabilities or special health care needs, be active in the Individualized Education Program process.

Helpful Resources: Family Media Use Plan: www.healthychildren.org/MediaUsePlan

Smoking Quit Line: 800-784-8669 | Information About Car Safety Seats: www.safercar.gov/parents | Toll-free Auto Safety Hotline: 888-327-4236

5 AND 6 YEAR VISITS—PARENT

SAFETY

- Your child should always ride in the back seat (until at least 13 years of age) and use a forward-facing car safety seat or belt-positioning booster seat.
- Teach your child how to safely cross the street and ride the school bus. Children are not ready to cross the street alone until 10 years or older.
- Provide a properly fitting helmet and safety gear for riding scooters, biking, skating, in-line skating, skiing, snowboarding, and horseback riding.
- Make sure your child learns to swim. Never let your child swim alone.
- Use a hat, sun protection clothing, and sunscreen with SPF of 15 or higher on his exposed skin. Limit time outside when the sun is strongest (11:00 am–3:00 pm).
- Teach your child about how to be safe with other adults.
 - No adult should ask a child to keep secrets from parents.
 - No adult should ask to see a child's private parts.
 - No adult should ask a child for help with the adult's own private parts.
- Have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every floor. Test them every month and change the batteries every year. Make a family escape plan in case of fire in your home.
- If it is necessary to keep a gun in your home, store it unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately from the gun.
- Ask if there are guns in homes where your child plays. If so, make sure they are stored safely.

Consistent with *Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents*, 4th Edition

For more information, go to <https://brightfutures.aap.org>.

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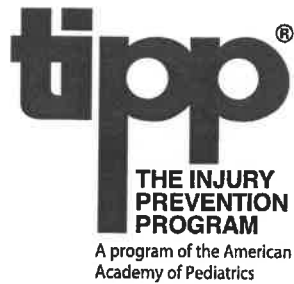
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5 Years



5 YEARS

Safety for Your Child

Did you know that injuries are the greatest threat to the life and health of your child? Injuries are the leading cause of death of school-aged children. **Yet you can prevent most major injuries!**

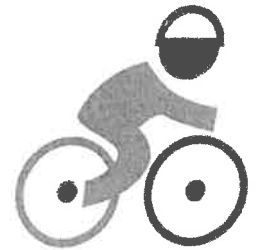
At age 5, your child is learning to do many things that can cause serious injury, such as riding a bicycle or crossing a street. Although children *learn quickly*, they still cannot judge what is safe. You must protect your child. You can prevent common major injuries by taking a few simple steps.

Bike Safety

Your child should always wear a helmet when riding a bike. Buy the helmet when you buy the bike! **Make sure your child wears a helmet every time he or she rides.** A helmet helps prevent head injuries and can save your child's life.

Never let your child ride a bike in the street. **Your child is too young to ride in the street safely.**

Be sure that the bike your child rides is the right size. Your child must be able to place the balls of both feet on the ground when sitting on the seat with hands on the handlebars. Your child's first bicycle should have coaster brakes. Five-year-olds are often unable to use hand brakes correctly.



Street Safety

Your child is in danger of being hit by a car if he or she darts out into the street while playing. Take your child to the playground or park to play. Show your child the curb and **teach him or her to always stop at the curb and never cross the street without a grown-up.**



Water Safety

Now is the time to teach your child to swim. Even if your child knows how to swim, **never let him or her swim alone.** Teach your child how to turn upright, float, tread water, and get to safety.

Do not let your child play around any water (lake, stream, pool, or ocean) unless an adult is watching. The adult must be supervising closely and continuously without distractions like reading or using a phone. **Never** let your child swim in canals or any fast-moving water.

Teach your child to never dive into water unless an adult has checked the depth of the water. **And when your child is on any boat, be sure your child is wearing a Coast Guard-certified life jacket.**



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Fire Safety

Household fires are a threat to your child's life, as well as your own. **Install smoke alarms on every level** in your house, especially in furnace and sleeping areas, and **test the alarms every month**. It is best to use smoke alarms that use long-life batteries, but if you do not, change the batteries once a year.

Teach your child not to play with matches or lighters, and keep matches and lighters out of your child's reach. Also, do not smoke in your home. Many home fires are caused by a lit cigarette that has not been put out completely.



Car Safety

Car crashes are one of the **greatest dangers** to your child's life and health. The crushing forces to your child's brain and body in a crash or sudden stop, even at low speeds, can cause severe injuries or death. **To prevent these injuries, correctly use a car safety seat or belt-positioning booster seat and seat belt every time** your child is in the car. Your child should use a car safety seat with a harness until he reaches the seat's upper weight limit or his ears come to the top of the seat; then he should use a belt-positioning booster seat. Your child is not big enough to fit in the adult seat belt yet. **The safest place for all children to ride is the back seat**. Set a good example. Make sure you and other adults buckle up too!



Firearm Hazards

Children in homes where guns are present are in more danger of being shot by themselves, their friends, or family members than of being injured by an intruder. Even if your child is taught never to touch a gun, if there is a gun in the house a child's curiosity can lead to severe injury or death. It is best to keep all guns out of the home. Handguns are especially dangerous. If you choose to keep a gun, keep it unloaded and in a locked place, with the ammunition locked separately. Ask if the homes where your child visits or is cared for have guns and how they are stored.



Would you be able to help your child in case of an injury? Put emergency numbers by or on your phone today. Learn first aid and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). Be prepared...for your child's sake!

From Your Doctor

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