

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>.

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



The information contained in this handout should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances. Original handout included as part of the *Bright Futures Tool and Resource Kit*, 2nd Edition.

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6 Years



6 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 6, your child will become more independent. He or she will be able to do more things that are dangerous. Your child will try to prove that he or she is grown up. But children still aren't good at judging sound, distance, or the speed of a moving car at this age. Your child can learn a few simple things to do for protection, but **you must still be in charge of his or her safety.**

Fire Safety

Make an escape plan in case of fire in your home. Your fire department can tell you how. Teach your child what to do when the smoke alarm rings. Practice what you and your child would do if you had a fire.

Do not smoke in your home. Many home fires are caused by a lit cigarette that has not been put out completely.

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.



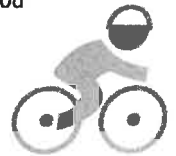
Firearm Hazards

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 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.



Bike Safety

Protect your child from bad head injuries or even death. **Make sure your child wears a properly fitted, approved helmet every time he or she rides a bike.** Never let your child ride in the street. Your child is too young to ride in the street safely!



Street Safety

Never let your child play near the street. Your child may dart out into traffic without thinking. The park or playground is the best place to play. Begin to teach your child safe street habits. **Teach your child to stop at the curb,** then look to the left, to the right, and back to the left again. Teach your child never to cross the street without a grown-up.



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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.**



And Remember Car Safety

Your child must use a **car safety seat or booster seat** in the car. Always check to be sure he or she is correctly buckled up before you start the car. Your child should use a car safety seat until he or she reaches the manufacturer's height or weight limit, then a booster seat until the lap belt can be worn low and flat on the hips and the shoulder belt lies across the middle of the chest and the shoulder rather than the face or neck (usually at about 4 feet 9 inches tall and between 8 and 12 years of age). The safest place for all children, even through school age, is in the back seat of the car. Set a good example.

Make sure you and other adults buckle up too!



From Your Doctor

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