

IDEAS HOME BASE



Safety tips for the little people

Are you among the 83 percent of parents that, according to the Home Safety Council, has left their toddler unattended for a few minutes? Sorry, didn't mean to put you on the spot.

HomeSafetyCouncil.org/startsafe is helping parents stay one step ahead of their toddlers by offering interactive quizzes, forums and a personalized safety checklist, all specifically for parents of babies and toddlers. One clever idea is to put tape on the floor to delineate the "no-kid-zone."

Go ask your mother

Moms always know best when it comes to their children's well-being. Unless, of course, they can't decipher the ingredients in products. "Smart Mama's Green Guide: Simple Steps to Reduce Your Child's Toxic Chemical Exposure" (Center Street; \$14.99) by Jennifer Taggart lists common hazardous chemicals, toxicology terms and a breakdown of the average person's chemical body burden. (Not that you're average.) Also, find out why your child should never play with your keys.

Don't put that in your mouth

How do you know your toddler's toys are clean? You know, the ones he puts in his mouth? **Dapple**, founded by two moms, is a line of baby-safe and baby-specific household cleaning products safe for bottles, cups, toys, dishes, and more. They are made with natural-based ingredients that are biodegradable and free of parabens, synthetic dyes and fragrances. The line includes dish soap, dish powder, a toy cleaner spray and toy cleaner wipes. Details: dapplebaby.com or 1-888-dapple-1.

— By Martha Phifer
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