

Safe Homes: Preventing Furniture Tipping Injuries

To kids, your furniture is like a jungle gym. They want to climb and play. But dressers and TVs can tip over and hurt a little climber.

Baby-proofing and child-proofing your home can begin even before you bring your baby home.

Follow this basic checklist to make sure your furniture stays put.

Do: Secure your furniture. Use wall anchors to secure anything that may tip over to the wall behind it. This includes bookcases, dressers, standing mirrors, and bureaus.

Do: Use the correct furniture. For example, TVs should be placed on TV stands, not on smaller, unstable tables.

Do: Secure your TV. All TVs should be secured to the wall, even if it's not wall-mounted. Flat screen TVs tip over very easily. All flat-screens should be securely mounted, either on a wall or on the entertainment center.

Do: Follow the instructions when mounting and securing furniture to ensure it is done correctly.

Do Not: put toys, remote controls and candy on top of TVs or furniture. Your toddler may be tempted to climb to reach them. Keep things you don't want your child to have access to in a secure drawer.

Do Not: Assume your furniture is too heavy to tip over. Anything can tip over if not secure.

With a little care and planning you can keep your little one safe in their own home. For more information on how to prevent tipping injuries, visit the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission.