

How is this form used:

The purpose of the home safety checklist is to make sure the babysitter is aware of potentially dangerous areas within your household. In many cases, children react quite differently when their parents are not home and will take advantage of the situation by venturing into areas they are not normally allowed. If the babysitter is informed of these areas, the potential for accidents can be greatly reduced. We advise you walk around your home with your babysitter to point these areas out before leaving.

Kitchen area:

- Any knives, scissors or sharp objects which can be reached by your child (yes) (no)
- Do any of the cabinets or cupboards contain strong cleaners or chemicals (yes) (no)
- Is it possible for your child to reach the sinks taps and run the water (yes) (no)
- Is there a pantry the child may lock himself into, or a door which exits the home (yes) (no)

Washrooms:

- Can the washroom door be opened from the outside if locked (yes) (no)
- Is there any drugs or medicines which can be reached by the children (yes) (no)
- Is it possible to lock the bathroom doors to keep the children out (yes) (no)

Garage or workshops:

- These two areas are usually filled with toxic solvents, chemicals and many sharp objects. Is it possible to seal the entrances to these rooms (yes) (no)

Large windows:

- Are there large windows or openings in the house which may have a loose or missing screen which your child could fall through (yes) (no)

Stairways:

- Do you have locking gates installed and how does the locking mechanism work (yes) (no)

Swimming pools:

- Is there a swimming pool in the backyard and is the entrance locked (yes) (no)

Are there other potentially dangerous areas? If so, use the back of this form to write them down and don't forget to discuss them with your babysitter.

Security in the home:

Show the babysitter where you keep the first aid kit and any fire extinguishers. If there is a security system installed, show the babysitter how it works to avoid any false alarms. Also show the babysitter how to lock the doors and windows properly, in case they need to step out, or have been given permission to take the kids outdoors.