

# CRIB SAFETY TIPS

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## Use Your Crib Safely

For infants less than 12 months of age, follow these practices to reduce the risk of SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome) and prevent suffocation:

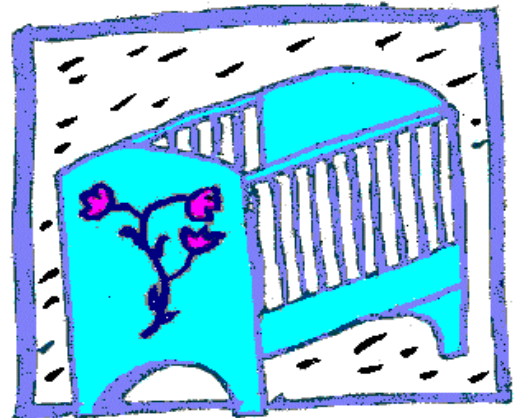
**A** Place baby on his/her back in a crib with a firm, tight-fitting mattress.

**A** Do not put pillows, quilts, comforters, sheepskins, pillow-like bumper pads or pillow-like stuffed toys in the crib.

**A** Consider using a sleeper instead of a blanket.

**A** If you do use a blanket, place baby with feet to foot of the crib. Tuck a thin blanket around the crib mattress, covering baby only as high as his/her chest.

**A** Use only a fitted bottom sheet made specifically for crib use.



## Check Your Crib for Safety

There should be:

**A** A firm, tight-fitting mattress so baby can't get trapped between the mattress and the crib.

**A** No missing, loose, broken or improperly installed screws, brackets, or other hardware on the crib or mattress support.

- Cribs that are assembled wrong, have missing, loose or broken hardware or broken slats can result in entrapment or suffocation deaths. Infants can strangle when their head and neck become entrapped in gaps created by missing, loose or broken hardware or broken slats.

**A** No more than 2 3/8 inches (about the width of a soda can) between the crib slats so a baby's body can't fit through the slats; no missing or cracked slats.

**A** No corner posts over 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch high so a baby's clothing can't catch.

**A** No cutouts in the headboard or foot board so a baby's head can't get trapped.

For mesh-sided cribs and playpens, look for:

- Æ** Mesh less than ¼ inch in size, smaller than the tiny buttons on a baby's clothing.
- Æ** Mesh with no tears, holes or loose threads that could entangle a baby.
- Æ** Mesh securely attached to the top rail and floor plate.
- Æ** Top rail cover with no tears or holes.
- Æ** If staples are used, they are not missing, loose or exposed.

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**For more information, contact:  
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