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National Baby Safety Month: Simple Steps to Protect Your Child

September is National Baby Safety Month, which raises awareness for preventing injury to infants and young children. From choking hazards to safe sleep, a lot goes into keeping kids safe. According to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, unintentional injury is the leading cause of death for ages 1-4, and these deaths are largely preventable. National Baby Safety Month is the perfect time to equip yourself with important child safety information.

As children grow and develop, they depend on parents and caregivers to provide opportunities to explore, develop, and build connections that support their growth. Here are some daily practices parents and caregivers can adopt to keep children safe:

Practice Car Seat Safety: Proper use of car seats is one of the most important ways to protect young children in a car accident. Always make sure that children are securely buckled into appropriate car seats, boosters, and seat belts based on their age and size. Infants should remain in rear-facing car seats for as long as possible, per the car seat manufacturer's recommendations.

Practice Safe Sleep: Unsafe sleep environments remain the leading cause of death by suffocation. Remember the ABCs of Safe Sleep: Alone, on their Back, in a Crib. Stay vigilant around water. Always stay within arm's length of young children during bath time, near swimming pools, or other standing water. If you need to step away, bring the child with you.

Babyproof Your Home: Get down on your hands and knees for a baby's point of view. Remove or secure any obvious hazards like small items, electrical outlets, and cords. Secure furniture and televisions to prevent tip-over.

Secure Firearms: Guns should be stored unloaded and locked, while ammunition should be stored separately. Putting a firearm out of sight or out of reach of a young child is not safe storage.

By taking these simple yet crucial steps, parents and caregivers can significantly reduce the risk of unintentional injuries and deaths. September's National Baby Safety Month serves as a

powerful reminder that every action, from properly installing a car seat to securing a firearm, contributes to a safer future for our children.

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