

# Age-by-Age Baby Proofing Timeline

What to secure before crawling, walking, and climbing

20 items across 5 sections

## Before crawling: create the safe base layer

Before your baby is fully mobile, you have the best window to handle the structural work. This is when anchoring furniture, checking cribs and sleep spaces, mounting televisions, and clearing low choking hazards feels easy compared with doing it while a fast crawler follows you around.

- Anchor furniture and mount TVs.
- Remove small objects, batteries, magnets, and breakables from low surfaces.
- Review nursery layout for furniture stability and cord safety.
- Cover unused outlets and route cords away from floor level.

## Crawling and pulling up: secure the floor-level world

Once crawling begins, your child's universe expands to every reachable cabinet, stair opening, trailing cord, and pet water bowl. HealthyChildren guidance emphasizes that new abilities often arrive suddenly, so it helps to assume your baby can do tomorrow what they first attempted today.

- Install gates at stairs and dangerous transitions.
- Lock low cabinets and drawers in kitchens, bathrooms, and laundry areas.
- Re-check furniture anchors once your child starts pulling up.
- Move cords, plants, pet supplies, and purses out of the crawl zone.

## Cruising and early walking: plan for falls and faster access

Cruising changes the map again because your child can now reach counters, coffee tables, and door hardware while moving quickly. Falls become more frequent, and your baby can carry objects from one room to another. That is why corner protection, stair security, and deliberate clutter control start to matter more.

- Reposition hot drinks, glassware, and heavy objects away from edges.
- Use door controls for rooms that are not fully childproofed.
- Keep gates closed consistently, not occasionally.
- Audit every reachable surface from your child's standing height.

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## Climbing toddler stage: the biggest hazard is confidence

Climbing toddlers are not just stronger. They are strategic. They drag stools, stack toys, test latches, and remember which door opened yesterday. At this stage, baby proofing becomes a mix of hardware, environment design, and routine.

- Treat stools, toy bins, and chairs as climbing aids and place them intentionally.
  - Upgrade weak latches or temporary fixes your child has learned to defeat.
  - Revisit window safety, balcony access, and off-limit rooms.
  - Maintain a dedicated safe play area for independent exploration.
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## How to keep your checklist current without overbuying

A stage-based approach prevents two common problems: buying too much too early and reacting too late. Instead of childproofing for an imaginary future home, buy for the next skill your child is likely to gain in the next one to three months.

- Plan one stage ahead rather than two years ahead.
  - Replace habit-based supervision with safer environments whenever possible.
  - Use guide pages and room pages as your recurring audit list.
  - Re-check your home every few months or after developmental leaps.
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