
Grandparents' House Visit Safety Checklist

A short, visit-friendly safety plan for hosting a baby or toddler

10 items across 3 sections

The short-visit safety list

Medications are the highest-priority change. In many grandparents' homes, daily medications live on a counter, in a low drawer, or in an open pillbox where a curious toddler can reach. Moving these to a high cabinet during visits — or to a locked container if visits are frequent — is a fast, high-impact upgrade. Vitamins and supplements count too; iron pills in particular have caused serious incidents in young children.

- Move medications, vitamins, and supplements to a high or locked location.
- Add a baby gate at the top and bottom of any staircase the child can reach.
- Lower the water heater to about 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Anchor tall furniture in any room the child will use.

A portable safety kit for visits

For families who visit grandparents regularly, a small portable kit handles most situations without leaving anything permanently installed. Pack a few outlet covers, a couple of corner guards, a cord winder or two, a portable stove knob cover or stove guard if cooking is involved, and a folded pressure-mounted gate. A toilet lock and bath spout cover finish off the bathroom.

- Pack outlet covers, corner guards, cord winders, and a portable gate.
- Add a toilet lock and bath spout cover for bathroom visits.
- Keep a basket of safe toys and books ready at grandparents' house.

Walk through the house together

The most important step is the one most families skip: a calm, no-blame walk through the house with whoever will be supervising. This is not about criticizing how the home is set up; it is about pointing out the few things you would like watched, locked, or moved during the visit.

- Walk the house together before the first long visit.
 - Share medication locations, climbing habits, and feeding rules.
 - Confirm which rooms are off-limits and how doors will be handled.
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