



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BABY SAFETY IS SIMPLE IN SEPTEMBER

Oroville, CA.- For many new parents, the first few months of a baby's life revolves around nighttime feedings, diaper changes and watching their little one sleep. Before they know it, parents find themselves encountering many changes in their child's first year – rolling, scooting, crawling and walking.

With the thrill of watching a baby grow, comes the need for parents to prepare their environment for a moving and curious toddler. September is Baby Safety Month and the Butte County Children & Families Commission would like this month to serve as a reminder of the simple, yet effective, steps parents and caregivers can take to help ensure their little explorer is safe.

Think Like A Kid!

For grown ups, life is tall. Parents should try and look at things from their child's perspective when making their homes safer. Get down on your hands and knees to look for hazards including electrical outlets, dangling drapery cords or unlocked cabinets. Parents should be sure all medicine bottles are kept in locked cabinets and out of your toddlers reach.

Look Out Below!

Infants and toddlers are prone to falling. Taking extra precautions can prevent serious injuries from a fall. Always keep one hand on an infant while on the changing table, avoid placing babies on adult beds for naps add cushioned corner guards or edging to coffee and side tables and install safety gates around stairs or other harmful areas.

Splash Into Safety!

Little ones should never be left alone while bathing, as they can drown in as little as one inch of water. Installing lid-locking devices on every toilet in the home can also prevent a child from drowning. Backyard pools, rain filled buckets and local creeks also pose a real threat to a curious toddler. Always supervise babies, toddlers and children around water.

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Buckle Up!

Babies have weak neck and back muscles and need extra support when traveling in a vehicle. A rear-facing car seat supports a baby's head and neck in a sudden stop. Babies must ride in rear-facing car seats until they are at least 1-year-old and weigh at least 20pounds. As a child grows, so too should the size of the car seat. Forward-facing car seats can be used until a child reaches approximately 40 pounds. After that, children must be secured in an appropriate booster safety seat until they are at least 6 years old or weigh at least 60 pounds. Babies and toddlers should never be allowed to play in or around cars and should always ride in the back seat.

Butte County Children & Families Commission is committed to improving the lives of children and families. The Commission was established following a voter-passed initiative in November 1998 and uses tobacco tax revenue to fund education, health, child abuse prevention, child care and other programs intended to promote early childhood development for expectant parents and children through age 5. For more information about local programs improving the lives of children and families in Butte County, please contact First 5 at: (530) 538-7964 or visit us on the Web at: www.buttecounty.net/bccfc. For additional safety tips to help you celebrate Baby Safety Month in September, please visit the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Web site at www.aap.org.

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