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ACPM Child Injury Assessment Tool

Program ID (Optional): _____

Name: _____ Gender: M F

Address: _____

How many people live in the home? _____

How many children under 18 are in the home? _____

Ages of Children: _____

Assessment Date: _____ Follow-Up Date: _____

Initial Assessment? Yes No

Home Status: Rent Own

Type of Dwelling:

One-Story, Single-Family Home

Multi-Level, Single-Family Home

Multi-Family Building (Greater Than 2 Units)

Duplex (2 Units)

Pediatrician/Child Health Professional Contact Information (Optional):

OUTDOORS

1) Observation: Is there a swimming pool or spa on the property? Yes No

a. Observation: Is there a four-sided fence that isolates the pool from the house/dwelling and yard? Yes No

i. Check: Is the fence gate self-latching (self-closing)? Yes No

ii. Check: Does the fence open up away from the pool? Yes No

b. Ask: How often are your children left alone in the pool? Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never

2) Observation: Do children have access to standing water, including a wading pool? Note: You may want to observe or check this directly only during summer months, but only ask or mention this is a hazard during the winter months. Yes No

3) Check: Do caregivers have the appropriate car safety seat? Yes No

a. (Caregiver Demonstration) Can they install them properly? This question may require expertise in car seat installation and fitting. It may be best to provide resources for certified car seat counselors or ask the following (b) question.

Yes No (If no, taught correct installation on: _____)

b. Ask: Have you been taught how to properly install a car seat? Yes No



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- c. **Ask:** How often do you put *(Child(ren)'s name(s))* in a car seat when driving?
Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never
[\(Motor Vehicle Safety Educational Opportunity\)](#)

Additional Comments:

INDOORS--General

- 4) **Observation:** Do you notice [small items](#) in the house? Yes No
- a. *Mark all that apply:*
Marbles/Small Balls/Spherical Toys Un-inflated Latex Balloons
Loose Change Beads Button-Shaped Batteries
Rubber Erasers Other: _____
- b. **Ask:** How often does *(Child(ren)'s name(s))* play with these types of toys?
Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never
- 5) **Observation:** Are there [gates](#) in the appropriate stairways and doorways? N/A Yes No
- a. **Ask:** If so, how often do you leave these gates left open?
Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never
- 6) **Check:** Is there a functioning smoke detector in the home? Yes No
- a. **Ask:** When was the battery last changed?
(If they have a lithium-ion battery record installation date: _____)
(If "Don't Know" or similar, changed with caregiver on: _____)
- b. **Ask:** Is there a functioning carbon monoxide detector in the house? *Mark "N/A" if there is no combustion source (such as a fireplace; fuel-burning, unvented space heaters; or gas cooking stoves) in the home or an attached garage, if available.*
N/A Yes No
- 7) **Check:** What is the hot water [temperature](#) at the tap? Recorded at: _____
Unable to Measure
- 8) **Observation:** Are all of the electrical outlets, accessible by the child, covered? Yes No



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9) **Observation:** Do [windows](#) above the first floor have locks and operable window guards?

Yes No

10) **Observation:** Are the loops on the windows/blinds cords large enough for a child to get their head stuck in them?

Yes No

11) **Observation:** Are there loose cords attached to heavy objects, like ironing boards, irons, electrical tools, or televisions, hanging low to the ground? *If pulled, these objects could fall on a child.*

Yes No

12) **Ask:** Where do you keep the [Poison Control number](#)? _____

(If they do not have it, or do not know where it is kept, provide the number to the caregiver for input into their cell phone or to place on their refrigerator or next to their home phone).

a. **Check:** Are cleaning supplies within reach of children? Yes No

b. **Ask:** Where are your medications and vitamins stored? _____

c. **Observation:** Are purses and bags accessible to children? Yes No

d. **Observation:** If the house was built before 1978, is there noticeable peeling paint?
N/A Yes No

13) Round or hard foods, like nuts, raw carrots, popcorn, hot dogs, grapes, seeds, or hard candy can be [choking risks](#) to children.

a. **Ask:** How often do you give *(Child(ren)'s name(s))* these types of foods?
Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never

b. **Ask:** Have you been trained in CPR or what to do if someone is choking? *If caregiver is interested, provide local resources to CPR training.*

Yes No

14) **Ask:** Does *(Child(ren)'s name(s))* use [walkers](#)? Yes No

15) **Ask:** Do you put straps on *(Child(ren)'s name(s))* after they sit down in their high chair?

Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never N/A

a. **Ask:** If you place your child in a car seat on a counter or other high surface, how often do you strap the child in?

Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never N/A



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b. **Ask:** How often is your child left alone for longer than a few minutes on a bed or a changing table?

Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never N/A

16) **Ask:** Are there firearms in the home?

Yes No

a. **Ask:** Are the firearms always stored locked and unloaded?

Yes No

[\(Firearm Safety Educational Opportunity\)](#)

Additional Comments:

BATHROOM/KITCHEN

17) **Ask:** How often is (*Child(ren)'s name(s)*) left alone in the [bathtub](#)?

Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never

a. **Ask:** How often is the toilet seat cover left up? *Young children may also drown in a toilet.*

Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never

18) **Cooking can be dangerous around young children, particularly when items are being heated on the stove or in the oven.**

a. **Ask:** Do you hold your child while cooking?

Yes No

b. **Ask:** Do you leave food unattended while it is cooking and the child is in the room?

Yes No

19) **Ask:** How do you [position your pots and pans](#) when cooking on the stove?

20) **Children can accidentally cut themselves or others if they play with knives.**

a. **Ask:** Where do you keep your knives?

Additional Comments:

LIVING ROOM/BEDROOM

21) **Children can get hurt by climbing up on furniture and having it fall on them.**

a. **Check:** Are dressers/shelves [secured to the wall](#)? *May need to provide local resources on how to access securing mechanisms for low-income households.*

Yes No



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22) **Check:** Are there [stops on drawers](#) to prevent them from being pulled out by young children?

May need to provide local resources on how to access securing mechanisms if they cannot afford them. Yes No

23) **Check:** Is the television [secured to the wall](#) or other furniture? Yes No

24) **(Infants Only):** Many infants may get hurt when sleeping in unsafe places or surrounded with objects that could suffocate them.

- a. **Ask:** Where does the infant sleep or nap in the home? _____
- b. **Ask:** What [position](#) does the infant sleep in? _____
- c. **Ask:** Are there soft objects in the infant's bed, such as pillows, pillow-like toys, quilts, or comforters? Yes No
- d. **Check:** Check the mattress for firmness. Firm Soft Neither

Additional Comments:

PSYCHOSOCIAL SCREENING

Please tell the caregiver that these next few questions are designed to help you understand any stressful issues they may be dealing with. They are not intended to scare or upset them, but to help connect them with local resources if they need assistance. Please have contact information to local resources available with you to give to the caregiver, if necessary. May be best addressed after a relationship has been established.

25) **Ask:** Over the last two weeks, how often have you been bothered by any of the following problems? ([Little interest or pleasure in doing things; Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless](#))

- a. Little interest or pleasure in doing things
Not at all Several days Half of the days More than half of the days
Nearly every day
- b. Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless
Not at all Several days Half of the days More than half of the days
Nearly every day

26) **Ask:** How often do you [drink alcohol](#)?

Never Once a month 2-4 times per month 2-3 times per week
4 or more times per week

- a. **Ask (If selected an answer above other than "Never"):** When you do decide to drink alcohol, how many drinks would you normally have in one sitting?



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1-2

3-4

5-6

7-9

10+

27) Ask: Do you ever feel irritated or frustrated when your infant cries, so much so that you would want to shake the baby? Yes No

[\(Frustration Educational Opportunity\)](#)

28) Ask: If someone other than you ever takes care of your baby, do you know if they often feel so irritated they want to shake your baby? Yes No

Additional Comments:



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EDUCATIONAL TOPICS

Alcohol Misuse (Question 26)--Acute intoxication is a primary contributor of suffocation deaths. Please refer to appropriate local alcohol counseling assistance. [Back to Question 26](#)

Bathtubs (Question 17)-- All children under 6 years of age should be watched carefully by an adult or teenager while in the bathtub. Bath seats/rings can topple over and are not a substitute for supervision. Toilets should be secured with a locking cover to prevent drowning accidents. Young children should be prevented unsupervised access to the bathroom. Slip-resistant stickers or mats should be used on the bottom of the bathtub and shower so the floor is not as slippery. [Back to Question 17](#)

Small Items/Choking Hazards (Questions 4 & 13)--Marbles, balls, spherical toys or toy parts and un-inflated or broken pieces of latex balloons, loose change, stored beads, or rubber erasers are a risk for young children who may have access to them. The shape of an object can predispose young children to complete airway blockage if the diameter of the object is the same as that of the airway. The most common ingested inorganic objects by children are oval or spherical. Latex balloons are the leading cause of choking deaths among all children's products because they can conform to a child's airway and form an airtight seal. Metallic button-shaped batteries require prompt removal as their destruction is caused by low voltage electric currents.

Organic foreign bodies are more irritating to the nasal mucosa, producing symptoms sooner than inorganic foreign bodies that may remain asymptomatic and discovered incidentally. Surroundings near a child's home or play place should be clear of items such as wood chips, small rubber parts, or kitchen items, etc...Should assess the general cleanliness of the home and presence or absence of clutter. Insects could enter nasal passages; insect infestation will increase this risk.

Assess for the presence of developmental and neurological impairment in the child; assess for cognitive skills, behavioral control, or their experience to chew and eat food slowly. The risk of nasal foreign body injuries is increased in children with mental illnesses. Children with a small airway or who lack a forceful cough are particularly vulnerable.

Assess who cleans the child's ears, as cotton buds can get stuck in them if inserted too far.

Purchasing toys for children with younger siblings may be a challenge to ensure that younger siblings do not swallow small items. [Back to Question 4](#)

59.5% of nonfatal choking episodes are related to food. Parents should ensure age appropriate toys for play with no loose or small parts. Play areas should be free of small objects that could be accidentally ingested or inhaled. Parents should supervise meal times for children until they are at least able to handle solid food well and food should be broken down to where it will not pose a choking hazard. Scattered peas or beans, if fed to the child, should be cleared at the end of the meal to prevent accidental insertion. Assess for the proper eating etiquette to ensure children are not talking/laughing while eating or eating while lying down. *(Could also fall under observation/assessment)* Infants should not be given round or hard foods to eat; like nuts, raw carrots, popcorn, seeds, or hard candy. Ingested foreign bodies are more common than inhaled foreign bodies. [Back to Question 13](#)

Depression (Question 25)-- Increasing depressive symptoms in mothers was associated with an increased risk of child injury. Child behavior did not significantly mediate the association between maternal depressive symptoms and child injury in this cohort. Greater recognition, referral, and treatment of depressive symptoms in mothers may have effects on child behavior and injury risk. Please refer them to the appropriate local mental health assistance. [Back to Question 25](#)

Gates/Falls from a Height (Questions 5, 9, & 14)-- Gates and guardrails should be used to prevent stair injuries in toddlers and infants. Safety gates must be anchored at both the top and bottom of stairs. Also, accordion-style or tension gates may cause strangling injuries in children and should not be used. Hallways and areas frequently traversed by children



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should be kept clear of cords. Area rugs should be secured to the floor with tape and stairways should be kept free from clutter. Children should wear footwear that fits properly and is slip-resistant. Sneakers or shoes with rubber soles are recommended. [Back to Question 5](#)

Windows: It is possible for children to fit through a 5-inch window opening. Keep windows from opening greater than 4 inches but make sure they can be removed in a fire. Beds, sofas, chairs, and other items that can be climbed must be at least 3 feet from windows. Place bushes, shrubs, or sand to help cushion the area outside of windows in case of a fall. [Back to Question 9](#)

Walkers: Babies using walkers may tip over, fall out, or fall down stairs. Alternatives to walkers include stationary walkers, playpens, or high chairs. [Back to Question 14](#)

Hot Water/Fire/Risk of Burning (Questions 7 & 19)—Hot water temperature at the tap should be 120 degrees F. [Back to Question 7](#)

Pot handles should be facing in. [Back to Question 19](#)

Firearm Safety (Question 16)—Caregivers must be responsible for firearm safety in the home. Be sure to encourage caregivers to talk with older children (ages 3 years and up) about guns, gun safety, and the difference between toy and real guns, even if there are no guns in their home.

Children should be taught that if they see a gun to stop; don't touch it; leave the area; and tell an adult.

Caregivers with firearms in the home should take care to keep guns unloaded and securely stored when not in use. [Back to Question 16](#)

Frustration (Questions 27 & 28)—Infants aged 2 weeks to 3-4 months often go through a period of time where they resist soothing. This can still be healthy and normal. Most importantly, caregivers should stay calm, even though it is hard to do if they feel frustrated, frazzled, or worried. Remind caregivers not to let their feelings shape the way they treat the baby because it can be harder to calm the child if their caregiver is also upset. [Back to Question 27](#)

Secure Furniture (Questions 21, 22, & 23)-- Use brackets, braces, or wall straps to secure unstable or top-heavy furniture to the wall. Be sure to keep heavier items on lower shelves or in lower drawers. [Back to Question 21](#)

Stops on Drawers: Avoid placing remote controls, food, toys or other items in places where kids might be tempted to climb up or reach for them. Install stops on dresser drawers to prevent them from being pulled all the way out. Multiple open drawers can cause the weight to shift, making it easier for a dresser to fall. [Back to Question 22](#)

Televisions: Mount flat screen TVs to the wall or furniture. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to ensure you protect your wall and have a secure fit. [Back to Question 23](#)

Motor Vehicle Safety (Question 3)-- Assessing adult supervision at the time of risk could decrease risk of injury.

If you see an unattended child in a car, dial 911 immediately. Never leave a baby unattended in a vehicle, even with the window slightly open. Place something that you will need at your next stop – for example, a purse, lunch, gym bag or briefcase – on the floor of the backseat where the child is sitting. This simple act could prevent you from accidentally forgetting your child if he or she is sleeping.

Be especially careful if you change your routine for dropping off babies at child care. Have a plan that if your child is late for child care, you will be called within a few minutes.



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Watch children closely around vehicles, particularly when loading and unloading. Check to ensure all children leave the vehicle when you reach your destination. Do not overlook sleeping babies. Walk all the way around your parked vehicle to check for children - or anything that could attract a child, like pets or toys - under or behind your vehicle before getting in and starting the engine. Accompany little kids when they get in and out of a vehicle. Firmly hold the hand of each child when walking near moving vehicles and when in driveways, in parking lots or on sidewalks.

Block driveways so cars cannot enter and exit. Teach children not to play in any vehicle. Always lock a vehicle's doors and trunk—especially at home.

Identify and use safe play areas for children, away from parked or moving vehicles. Designate a safe spot for children to wait, where a driver can see them, when nearby vehicles are about to move. [Back to Question 3](#)

Poison Control (Question 12)-- Cleaning supplies should be kept in a locked cabinet or out of reach of young children.

The Poison Control number should be posted and easily accessible to all members in the household. Medications should be kept out of reach of young children or in a locked cabinet. Purses and bags of visitors can often contain medications and should be placed in an area out of reach of young children. [Back to Question 12](#)

Safe Sleep Position (Question 24)-- Most infants should be placed on their back to sleep on a firm mattress with tight fitting sheets. The baby's face should be left uncovered. Unsafe sleep positions or additional objects such as pillows or soft toys in the bed can cause suffocation. Once infants can roll from back to front on their own, they can be allowed to remain in the sleep position that is most comfortable for them. Room-sharing, or co-sleeping in close proximity but not on the same bed, does not increase an infant's risk of SIDS. [Back to Question 24](#)

Standing Water (Question 2)-- Standing water is a drowning hazard and is often found in inflatable pools, 5 gallon buckets, large pails, and irrigation ditches. [Back to Question 2](#)

Swimming Pools/Spas (Question 1)-- The isolation fence should be four sided and greater than 4 feet tall, not a chain link fence, and the distance between vertical slabs should be less than 2 inches. The gate latch should be greater than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate and should be checked often to be sure it is in good working order. Pool covers and/or Pool alarms do not substitute for fencing or gate.

Make sure to use special drain covers, Safety Vacuum Release Systems (SVRSs), filter pumps with multiple drains, and other pressure venting filter construction. [Back to Question 1A](#)

Children should be taught to never swim alone or without an adult present. Infants, toddlers, and weak swimmers should be no more than an arm's length away from an adult. Air-filled arm bands and other inflatable aids are not a substitute for life jackets. Swimming lessons are recommended for children over 4 years old depending on their rate of development, emotional maturity, health and physical limitations.

Caregivers should keep a telephone and U.S Coast Guard approved rescue items on site. Caregivers and older children should also be encouraged to learn CPR. [Back to Question 1B](#)

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