**Infant Bedding Safety**

- To reduce the risk of SIDS, ALWAYS place healthy infants on their backs to sleep, unless otherwise advised by your child’s physician.
- ALWAYS use a tight-fitting crib sheet that fits securely on the mattress and wraps around the mattress corners.
- NEVER place additional padding under an infant. Only a tight fitted sheet, mattress pad and/or waterproof pad should be used under the baby.
- When using bumper pads, avoid those that are pillow-like. Bumper pads must fit properly in your crib and tie or snap securely into place. Bumper ties MUST NOT exceed nine inches. Make sure the bumper pad can be secured along the sides of the crib.
- Use bumper pads only until the child can pull up to a standing position. Then remove them so baby cannot use the pads to climb out of the crib.
- Many bumpers are now sold in four pieces. For each bumper segment, if all ties on that segment cannot be securely attached to the crib DO NOT USE the bumper segment.
- NEVER place infants to sleep on any soft surface. This includes pillows, sofa cushions, comforters, adult beds, waterbeds, beanbags, or any other surface not specifically designed for infant sleep.
- Do not use wedges or positioners to prop your infant up or to keep your infant on his or her back or side.
- Remove pillows, sheepskins, loose blankets, stuffed animals, toys and products not intended as infant bedding from the crib, portable crib, bassinet, bedside sleeper or play yard style crib when infants are sleeping.
- Do not overdress your baby. Consider using a sleeper, wearable blanket or other sleep clothing as an alternative to keep your baby warm.
- Make sure your baby doesn’t get too warm during sleep. Use light sleep clothing and keep room temperature at what would be comfortable for a lightly-clothed adult.
- For newborns, consider swaddling. Discontinue swaddling when infants show signs of rolling over or can break free from the swaddle blanket or commercial products designed for swaddling.
- Check periodically for loose threads or stitching which could cause gagging or choking.

**Crib Safety**

- The safest place for a baby to sleep is in a fully functional, properly assembled, JPMA Certified crib, portable crib, bassinet, bedside sleeper or play yard style crib. Before you use any of these products, always check to make sure they have not been recalled.
- You should never purchase or use second hand cribs, portable cribs, bassinets, bedside sleepers or play yard style cribs handed down from friends or family members as they may not meet the most current safety standards.
- Drop side cribs are no longer available for purchase and should NOT be used.
- Make sure there are no missing, loose or broken parts or improperly installed screws, brackets or other hardware on the crib or the mattress support. Check the stability and hardware on the crib often. Do not substitute hardware. Only use hardware obtained directly from the manufacturer.
- Always use a properly fitting mattress as infants can suffocate in gaps between a poorly fitting mattress and the crib sides or ends.
- Never leave items not intended for the crib hanging on the corner posts or sides of the crib. Babies can pull those items into the crib or become entangled in them.
- When your child is able to pull to a standing position, set the mattress to the lowest position and remove bumper pads, large toys and other objects that could serve as steps for climbing out. It’s time to move your child to a toddler bed when he or she begins to climb out or reaches a height of 35 in.
- Never place the crib near windows where cords from blinds or drapes may strangle a child.
- Mobiles should be removed from the crib, portable crib or play yard style crib when baby can push up on hands and knees or pull up to a standing position.
- If using a baby monitor with cords, make sure all cords are out of arm’s reach of your child. Never place any item in or on the crib that has cords, strings, etc. as infants are at risk for strangulation.
- Never put a baby monitor in the crib, play yard style crib, bassinet, or toddler bed. Three feet away is where your monitor should stay!

These important safety messages are brought to you by the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA). For additional guidelines on the safe selection and use of sleep related and other juvenile products, visit www.cribsafety.org or www.jpma.org.