

8 Useful Home Security Habits Your Kids Need To Know



Kids shouldn't have to worry about home invasions or burglaries—part of the magic of being a child is thinking positively about the world. But if you leave your children entirely in the dark about home security, some of their innocent habits could put your home at risk.

Luckily, teaching your kids about proper home safety habits can help empower them as contributing household members – just be sure to phrase these conversations in a bright, positive light – and keep them in mind when you and your little ones are spending some quality time at home.

1. Reducing Noise Pollution

If you've been looking for a way to get your children to stop playing the soundtrack to "Shrek" so loudly, or simply want them to stop screaming at each other, you could talk to them about the risks of noise pollution in the home. If they're too loud, you may not hear your car alarm go off, an alarm notifying you that a back door has been opened, or an important text message alerting you to an incoming storm. Explain to your children that being just a little bit quieter can help them be better detectives because when you hear something strange, you know something strange is up!

2. Picking Up Toys

Having your children pick up their toys after playing doesn't just help your home look tidier, but can make a big difference when it comes to your safety. Beside preventing you from tripping and potentially hurting yourself, cleaning up toys means there's less clutter. If a potential burglar peeks inside and sees lots of toys, he may know you have expensive toys, game systems, equipment, and more. Let your little one know: play time is a game and clean up time is a game!

3. Never Answering the Door

Make sure your children know to never answer the door. If you're home, they should always let you know first. If you are not home, they shouldn't answer the door ever, even if it's someone pretending to be a close neighbor or friend. Installing a smart doorbell is a good idea, allowing you to speak through your doorbell via smart device, even if you're miles away.

4. Learning to Use the Security System

Your children should know how to lock all of the doors and windows with the push of a button on your security system. This will help them protect your home if their spidey sense ever goes off! You should

also practice what to say to security personnel if one speaks to them through the intercom—information like the physical state of people in the home, whether or not there has been a break-in, and whether or not they need assistance.

5. Teaching Them Phone Etiquette

It's best if kids don't answer the phone (unless caller ID shows it is a friend or relative.) Once children get on the phone with a stranger, it's too easy for that stranger to persuade them to give out information like their address and whether or not they're home alone. If your children must answer the phone to take messages, make sure they never give out their name, address, or information. Treat this as a special responsibility – only grown-ups get to answer the phone, so he/she has to be super careful now that they've reached this milestone.

6. Recognizing Dangerous Smells

Make sure your children learn to recognize the smell of smoke or gasoline so they can leave the house immediately if ever happen to smell it. They should also be familiar with the easiest ways to exit the home in case of a fire or gas leak. When you're pumping gas at the gas station or cooking on your gas stove, you can slyly mention, "This is what gas/gasoline smells like. If you ever smell it, let me know right away!"

7. Being Humble About Money

Ask your children never to speak to strangers about how much money you make, new nice things you have bought, or generally what sort of lifestyle you can afford. Chances are they don't know the number outright, but may brag to friends in public about recent purchases or trips. There is no knowing who is listening in on your child's conversation about your brand new car.

8. Practice What You Preach

The best way to enforce these safety habits is to practice them yourself! Everyone in the house can benefit from being more conscious of all of these habits. If your child sees you practicing them, it will remind them to do these things regularly, as well.

Children can be quite resourceful if we just give them a few tips! Let your kids be a part of the safety team in your household – you can even give them a special badge when they demonstrate full knowledge of each precaution, making the process fun for them and safe for you.

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