



Safety Concerns for Children with Special Needs

All children need good care to keep them safe, but there are some additional safety concerns to consider when caring for children with special needs.

Your child may require specialized medical care in the home that requires specific medical equipment and supplies, seating and mobility devices, accessibility into and around the home, electrical capacity and power outage contingency plans, and in-home nursing care. A health care professional can help you arrange for equipment, supplies and services.

Emergencies

Here are some tips for dealing with emergencies.

- Post an emergency plan for everyone to see, with topics such as how to transport your child and any special equipment, what to do during a power outage for medical equipment, and how your child gets into and out of your house in an emergency.
- Contact your local fire department if you need a special fire alarm due to your child's hearing and/or vision loss.
- Consider an alarm system that notifies 911 during emergencies.
- Keep the Emergency Information Form (EIF) for children handy so that others will know your child's special needs, medications, and physician phone numbers in an emergency. This form is available at www.emergencycareforyou.org. Search for EIF.
- Consider purchasing a MedicAlert bracelet at www.medicalert.org.
- Notify local emergency agencies of your child's special needs, and make sure that family members and other caregivers know how to reach you in case of an emergency.

Transportation

Safely transporting your child with special needs requires planning. Some children require special car seats due to limited head and neck control, recent surgeries or special casts. Other children use wheelchairs, which require special tie downs while riding in the car.

There are special beds and restraint systems for children who must lie flat during transportation. If your child needs special medical equipment in the car, those items must also be secured safely. Your child's therapist can help you determine needs for specialty seating during transportation.

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Kenny Kids™ Pediatric Rehabilitation Program Locations

Kenny Kids – Buffalo

*Across the street from
Buffalo Hospital*
300 Catlin St., Suite 101
Buffalo, MN 55313
763-684-3888

Kenny Kids – Coon Rapids

3111 124th Ave. NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
763-236-7337

Kenny Kids – Owatonna

Owatonna Hospital
2250 NW 26th St.
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-977-2150

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Why is my child being referred for pediatric therapy?

At Kenny Kids, our therapists are specialists at identifying the need for adaptive seating, wheelchairs, car seats, bath seats and other positioning devices for your child's safety. The therapists can also provide information and training for caregivers in the proper transferring and lifting of children with special needs. Your child may also benefit from occupational, physical and or speech-language pathology services.

What else can I do to make my home safer?

General safety tips include:

- childproofing your home for your child's developmental age.
- using "Mr. Yuk" stickers for identifying harmful household cleaners.
- making sure that your child wears a bike helmet for wheeled activities, including biking, rollerblading, scooter boards and riding on ATVs.
- having your child wear a life preserver when around water.

In addition, you may contact your local law enforcement agency to determine if a yellow "caution" sign (i.e., wheelchair user, deaf child, children at play) would be appropriate in your neighborhood.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SAFETY ISSUES

SAFE KIDS

www.safekids.org

MINNESOTA SAFETY COUNCIL

www.mnsafetycouncil.org

INTERACTIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR KIDS

www.safe-a-rooni.org/

www.kidshealth.org