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Tips to Remember From National Safe at Home Week by Alison Rhodes, The Safety Mom

Written by Safety Mom August 30, 2010

This blog could go on forever since there are so many things to consider about being safe at home. But, here are a few of the top things to keep in mind:

Get a security and home monitoring system – I'll admit, I never had one before but now that I have the ADT Pulse system I can't imagine living without it. We used to have dogs which made me feel much safer but now I'm a single mom living in a home without dogs and was just informed by a friend that there were three break-ins in our community this past month. Nothing has ever given me greater peace of mind. Not only do I have a "panic" button to get the police immediately but also a medical emergency button and fire button. I have a camera monitoring my driveway so I can see who is driving in and I can lock and unlock the doors remotely from my computer or iPhone. I also get alerts if my daughter hasn't walked in the door at a certain time after school. The ADT Pulse system will save on your energy bill since you can control lights and your thermostat as well as probably qualify you for a discount on your home owners insurance policy.

Check all your baby proofing items – Be sure that hardware mounted gates are still securely in place and that all cabinet and drawer latches are in good working order. If you have not secured furniture to the walls do so immediately. Topple-over accidents have increased over 46% over the last several years. Install furniture straps or corner braces to furniture, including changing tables, and use heavy-duty velcro to secure TVs to their stands.

Practice an emergency evacuation plan – As much as we know that an emergency can occur, we very often don't plan for it. Whether it's a fire, earthquake, hurricane or some other disaster, you need to have a plan as to who would be in charge of grabbing each child, establishing a meeting place away from the home and having an emergency preparedness kit ready to go which includes batteries, flashlights, bottled water and a blanket. Determine a person that each family member could call who lives in a different community that could be the "central point person" to receive information.

Refresh your First Aid kit – Be sure that items in your First Aid kit have been replenished and that your anti-biotic ointment hasn't expired. Stock up bandages, a thermometer, an ice-pack and ibuprofen, and anti-bacterial cream. Be sure that you are CPR and First Aid certified and, if you haven't taken a course in a while, re-certify.
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