

# Is This Crib (or Bassinet or Playpen) SAFE?

## A Checklist for Anyone Taking Care of an Infant

- Do not use heirloom/antique cribs or bassinets.
- Never use a mattress other than the one that was made for the specific crib, bassinet or playpen you are using.
- Do not try to pad the mattress or make a mattress using towels, pads or other materials.
- If a crib or bassinet is broken, throw it away – do NOT try to fix it.
- Don't let strings, toys suspended from a mobile, or window blind or curtain cords hang into the bassinet.
- Baby should be placed ALONE on his or her BACK in a CRIB or other safe sleep surface.

### Crib Safety Checklist:

- The crib has not been part of a recall or safety alert.  
To check this, get the name and model of the crib and call:  
**CPSC Consumer Hotline: (800) 638-2772**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prerel.html>
- The crib is assembled according to instructions.
- The crib has a firm, tight-fitting mattress so a baby cannot get trapped between the mattress and the crib.
- There are no missing, loose, broken or improperly installed screws, brackets or other hardware on the crib or mattress support.
- There is no more than 2 and 3/8 inches (about the width of a soda can) between crib slats so that a baby's body cannot fit through the slats.
- There are no missing or cracked slats.
- There are no corner posts over 1/16th inch high so that a baby's clothing cannot catch on them.
- There are no cutouts in the headboard or footboard so a baby's head cannot get trapped.
- All visible hardware - every bolt, screw, track and clamp - is securely in place.
- The drop-side is on its track and functions well.

### **Mesh-sided Crib and Playpen Safety Checklist**

- The crib or playpen has not been part of a recall or safety alert.  
To check this, get the name and model and call:  
**CPSC Consumer Hotline: (800) 638-2772**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prerel.html>
- The playpen was made after 2000 and is certified (look for certification sticker on frame or packaging).
- The mesh is less than 1/4 inch in size, smaller than the tiny buttons on a baby's clothing.
- The mesh does not have any tears, holes or loose threads that could entangle a baby.
- The mesh is securely attached to top rail and floor plate.
- The top rail cover does not have any tears or holes.
- If staples are used, they are not missing, loose or exposed.
- There is NO added bedding, such as a mattress, pillow, comforter, or padding.
- The crib or playpen meets maximum height and weight limits--usually 35 inches and 30 pounds.  
Stop using a play yard when your child attempts to climb out.

### **Bassinet Safety Checklist:**

- The bassinet has smooth surfaces – no hardware sticking out.
- It has a sturdy bottom and a wide base for stability.
- It has a firm mattress that fits tightly.
- If you carry or move a bassinet or cradle, do it without your child in it.
- Do NOT add any bedding, such as a mattress, pillow, comforter, or padding.
- Don't exceed the recommended age or weight limits for the cradle or bassinet. As a general rule, stop using baby cradles, Moses basket and bassinets once your baby is able to roll over or reaches four months of age, whichever occurs first.