

Crib Checklist (from AAP)

To lower the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), all healthy babies should sleep alone, on their backs, in a crib at nap time and at night.

- When purchasing a crib, look for Juvenile Product Manufacturers Association (JPMA) certification.
- The slats on the crib should be no more than 2-3/8 inches apart. Widely spaced slats can trap small heads.
- Make sure your crib contains a firm mattress with a fitted sheet.
- Check for cracked and peeling paint. All surfaces should be covered with lead-free paint safe for nursery furniture.
- Keep pillows, quilts, comforters, sheepskins, and stuffed toys out of your baby's crib. They can cover your baby's face, even if she is lying on her back.
- All joints and parts should fit tightly, and the wood must be smooth and free of splinters.
- Use a mattress that fits snugly in the crib so your baby's entire body or arm's and legs cannot slip in between the sides of the crib. If you can fit 2 fingers between the mattress and the side of the crib, the crib should not be used.
- If using a portable crib or playpen, make sure that there are no tears, holes, or loose threads in the mesh and that openings are less than 1/4 inch across. Make sure the mesh is securely attached to the top rail and the floor plate. If staples are used, make sure they are not missing, loose, or exposed.
- Don't hang anything with strings or ribbon over cribs. The string in ribbon is a choking hazard once an infant is able to grab them.
- Tighten all the screws, bolts, and other hardware securely to prevent the crib from collapsing.
- Never use a crib with loose or missing attachments or support hardware. Some replacement hardware may be obtained from the crib manufacturer.
- Be sure to inspect every crib your child uses for safety—those at the grandparent's home, the baby-sitter's home, or the child care center.