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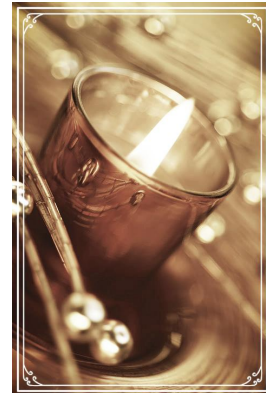
December Parenting Tip of the Month...

Holiday Safety

The holidays are a time filled with gatherings and celebrations. They are overflowing with decorations, gifts, food and much planning. During this festive time, there are many potential hazards to be mindful of. By making yourself aware of these, you can better prepare for a successful and accident-free holiday season.

Below are some helpful reminders to keep your family safe this holiday season:

- **Blow out lit candles when leaving a room.** According to the National Fire Protection Association, Christmas, New Year's Day and New Year's Eve are the top three days for home candle-related fires.
- **Remove choking hazards immediately.** Young children are curious and explore using their senses. Children under the age of 3 especially like to explore by putting items in their mouth. Put away items that are smaller than 2 inches in diameter or can easily fit in a child's mouth. This includes magnets and button batteries that are found in many electronic toys and devices.
- **Secure purses upon arrival.** Purses may contain items that are harmful and poisonous to children such as medications, eye drops and cosmetics. Put purses up high and out of sight of children or in a locked cabinet.
- **Keep plants out of reach of children and pets.** Holiday plants are great for decorating but some (i.e. mistletoe, holly and Jerusalem cherry plant) are considered poisonous. For additional listings of poisonous plants, [click here](#).





- **Buckle up!** When traveling, all passengers are required by Kansas law to wear a seat belt or be in a car seat. [Click here](#) to visit the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office website for more information on the proper car seat for your child, car seat check-up events and seat belt laws.
- **Anchor top-heavy furniture and TVs.** Many accidental injuries and deaths occur due to heavy furniture falling on children. Mount items to the wall or floor, or purchase inexpensive anti-tip brackets. To minimize children climbing on furniture, do not place tempting items like remote controls and toys on top of dressers, shelving, etc.
- **Keep hot food hot and cold food cold.** The highlight of the season may be all the delicious food. To keep everyone safe and enjoying themselves, review safety tips from [Foodsafety.gov](http://foodsafety.gov) by [clicking here](#).
- **Be sure to save the phone number for the Poison Control Center...** 1-800-222-1222.



Have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Looking for child care or parent resources?

Don't forget to contact our Parent Resource Center at 785-357-5171, 877-678-2548 toll free, and select option 1!

Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas supports the development and learning of young children by offering programs and services that improve the quality and accessibility of child care for working families.



To contact Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas, call 785-357-5171 or 877-678-2548 toll free. Visit our website at east.ks.childcareaware.org.

