

# When in doubt...

## Anchor it down!

It can be difficult to pay close attention to a child's every move. Their imagination turns furniture into a playground, fort, or obstacle course. A toy on top of a dresser or table offers an alluring challenge to little climbers. These everyday occurrences could cause serious injury or death for a child.



In the United States, 469 children died from furniture, TV, and appliance tip-over incidents between 2000 and 2019.



Between 2017 and 2019, an estimated 11,300 children were treated in hospital emergency rooms yearly due to furniture, TV, and appliance tip-overs.



Between 2000 and 2019, 89% of tip-over-related-fatalities among minors (under 18) involved children under 5 years old.



Of all fatalities involving children, 50% occurred in bedrooms.

While potentially lethal, these incidents are preventable. By taking a few simple steps you can ensure the safety of the children in your home.

### How to prevent tip-over injuries:

- Place the TV on a low, wide base. Push it as far back on its base as possible.
- Do not use shelves or dressers as TV stands.
- When purchasing a TV stand, check the size and weight limits.
- Strap all TVs to a stable stand and/or wall.
- Attach large furniture, such as dressers and bookshelves, to the wall using safety straps, L-brackets, or other secure attachment devices.
- Place heavy items on lower shelves of bookcases or entertainment centers to prevent climbing.
- Use desks with wide legs or solid bases.
- Install drawer stops on all drawers to prevent them from being pulled out more than two-thirds of the way.
- Parents should not place items of interest (toys, remote control) high on shelves or on top of the TV. Children may try to climb up the furniture to reach these items.
- Keep cords from TVs and other appliances tucked away so a child does not pull these items down on himself.



American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division (ATSPA)  
2 Flowers Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
www.atspa.org • atspa@atspa.org • 717.766.1616

