

Home Safety Conversation Strategies:

Safety counselling and support from a trusted professional can significantly reduce household injuries in families; however, it can be difficult initiating these conversations. The following strategies can be used by professionals to start a respectful discussion around childhood injuries and home safety risks with families.

- 1 Use open-ended questions and observations to prompt discussion**

“I just learned that falls are the number one way that children get hurt. How have you been dealing with falls in the house?”
- 2 Frame conversations positively and focus on strengths**

“I can tell how much you love your son by how much time you have spent finding a crib. Can I hear more about how you have been keeping him safe when sleeping?”
- 3 Engage in empathetic listening**

“Thanks so much for sharing. It sounds like it has been really hard finding a safe place for your daughter to play. I can see how stressful that must be for your family.”
- 4 Show that caregiver wisdom is heard and valued**

“It seems like there are many important teachings on how to bond with your baby and help them sleep at night. I would love to learn more. Would you be able to share some of those teachings with me?”
- 5 Understand the reason why caregivers use certain practices**

“When we spoke last, you mentioned that your 10-year-old son is now using the stove to cook food. Could you tell me more about that?”
- 6 Use neutral statements about safety and child development to address misinformation**

“Every year, we learn a little more about child safety, so the advice may change overtime. Right now, we know that babies have trouble holding their head up, which means they can drown very easily. Caregivers can help their baby stay safe by keeping one hand on the baby and supporting their head during bath time.”
- 7 Share personal experiences to reduce vulnerability**

“I remember when my son was young, I had to call the poison prevention centre because he ate some old vitamins. He was okay, but it was pretty scary. Now I try to keep all pills and vitamins locked in a cupboard.”