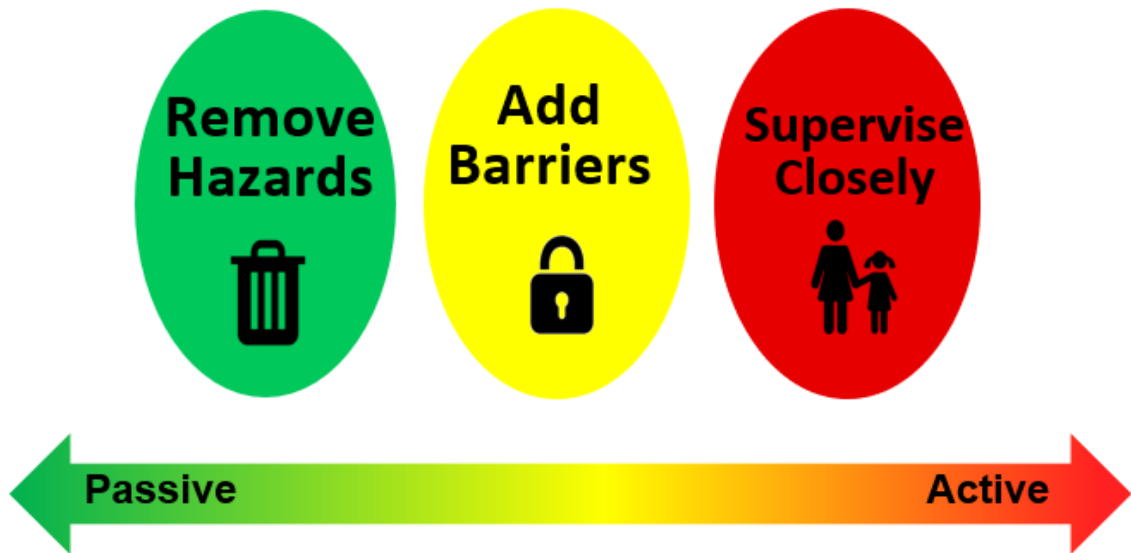


# The Traffic Light Approach



## Remove Hazards:

This step is recommended first because once a hazard is removed, no further action is required. Look for hazardous items not needed or used in daily life.

### Examples:

- Expired medications
- Poisonous plants
- Candles
- Balloons
- Damaged toys
- Blind cords
- Scatter rugs
- Button batteries
- Harsh cleaning products
- Improperly packaged or labelled cleaning products
- Small circular fridge magnets
- Damaged electronics
- Frayed cords
- Broken or unsafe furniture
- Bath seats
- Breakable ornaments
- Hard candies and gum
- Small toys that fit through a toilet paper roll (i.e., marbles)
- Crib bumpers and soft bedding
- Recalled products (i.e., baby walkers)
- Trampolines

## **Add Barriers:**

Barriers separate children from hazards. Barriers must be developmentally appropriate and be used consistently by family.

### **Examples:**

- Baby gates
- Safety straps for highchairs and change tables
- Latches for cabinets, drawers, refrigerator, dishwasher, etc.
- Lock boxes
- Non-slip mats
- Furniture wall anchors
- Outlet covers
- Doorknob covers
- Window guards
- Anti-scald devices
- Corner bumpers
- Fireplace Fence
- Smoke alarms
- Carbon monoxide alarm

### **Low-Cost/Free Barriers:**

- Cut a tennis ball in half and use as a bumper for sharp corners (i.e., counters, coffee tables)
- Cut a pool noodle in half and use as a door stopper or bumper
- Place a strong rubber band or hair tie around cabinet doors
- Place hazardous items behind a locked door
- Place medications in a high cupboard
- Use products with child resistant packaging (i.e., laundry pods)
- Cut blind cords
- Place sturdy furniture in front of electrical outlets
- Place duct tape or masking tape over electrical outlets
- Lower temperature of hot water heater to 49°C
- Use the back burners of the stove
- Place a tape border on the floor around the stove and teach children to stay outside of the border
- Place a heavy object on top of toilet seat cover
- To reduce falls, change infant diapers on a towel on the floor
- Move furniture away from windows
- Use double sided tape to keep rugs secure to the floor
- Tape electrical cords along the wall to reduce the risk of falls

## **Supervise Closely:**

Active and vigilant supervision is required anytime you cannot remove a hazard or add an appropriate barrier to a hazard, like during bath time. This strategy involves watching the child closely, having the child within arm's reach, and redirecting the child from hazards when needed.

## **Examples:**

- Anytime the child is near water (i.e., during bath time, while swimming, when near bodies of water, like ponds)
- When a young child is eating
- When the child is using household appliances (i.e., stove)
- Anytime the child is near fire (i.e., campfire, candles)
- When in a home or location that is not childproofed
- When crossing the street

Parental supervision has been identified as a key protective factor in keeping children safe and reducing childhood injury rates.