

# Create A Child-Safe Home Office

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**H**ome offices are wonderful because they allow us to work (or just surf) while still being with our families. Much time and effort is spent childproofing kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms and living rooms, but home offices probably pose the greatest danger to children. Think of all the electrical wires, cords, outlets and pinching drawers that fill your home office. With some basic precautions, you can make your home office a place that is safe for all.

## Cord Crazy

Start by dealing with all of those cords and wires that are snaking around your office. Tuck them behind desks and cabinets. Use cord gatherers and cord shorteners to secure them together or cord clips to run them along a baseboard to an outlet.

## Drawer Danger

Buy file cabinets with locks and keep drawers locked at all times. Shutting a finger in a heavy metal drawer can cause serious damage. Another file cabinet danger is the risk of tipping over. Secure anything taller than a two drawer file cabinet to the wall with tip resistant furniture brackets, especially bookcases whose shelves just cry out to be climbed on.

## Safety First

If your office chair has casters, be careful when rolling across the floor. Small fingers and toes can

easily be run over. Make it a rule that the children should not play near the chair.

Cover all open outlets with outlet covers. Purchase power strip safety covers. Wind up any cords for window blinds and secure them out of reach to prevent strangling. Consider using a plastic container with a snap on lid as a garbage can if you routinely throw away staples, paper clips and other objects a child could swallow or be harmed by. Keep paper shredders in a closet or out of reach. Never leave them plugged in.

## Out of Sight, Out of Mind

Get a desk with locking drawers or install child proof locking mechanisms on the drawers. Secure the drawers and cupboards of computer desks as well. Keep all pens, pencils, paper clips and staplers inside the desk or up on a shelf. If you are unable to secure your drawers, keep these items in small plastic containers with lids. Keep all your important papers in files in the file cabinet.

An errant toddler with a pen can cause incredible damage.

Phone cords are choking hazards, so be sure to keep any cords out of reach.

If you have a bulletin board, be sure it cannot be reached by a child. Keep extra tacks in a plastic box in a drawer and not on the bulletin board where they can easily fall to the floor. Place document sorting systems out of reach on top of file cabinets or shelves.

Childproofing devices are available at most hardware stores, baby centers and toy stores as well as from online specialty stores. With a little effort your home office can be a place where your children are welcome, safe and entertained and you can accomplish a lot. [wfm](#)

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## ONLINE RESOURCES

**Safety Zone**  
[www.safetyzone.com](http://www.safetyzone.com)

**Tips for childproofing cables**  
[www.cableorganizer.com/articles/Tips-Childproof-Your-Cables.html](http://www.cableorganizer.com/articles/Tips-Childproof-Your-Cables.html)

**Kids Safe Inc offers home safety products for families**  
[www.kidsafeinc.com](http://www.kidsafeinc.com)



For tips on making your home office more child-friendly, please scan the QR code.  
<http://gettag.mobi> or go to [washingtonfamily.com/page/Create-a-Child-Safe-Home-Office](http://www.washingtonfamily.com/page/Create-a-Child-Safe-Home-Office)

