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Parents Might Want To Consult With Experts On Baby Proofing

DIAL UP ROAD RUNNER

January 16, 2006

If you have children, you know the hazards around them grow as quickly as they do. But when it comes to your home, baby proofing is no small task.

Well, these days, more and more New York parents are putting their child's safety in the hands of professionals.

"We come to the home and we make it safer," says Howard Applebaum, the founder of Babyproofers Plus. "We get down on our hands and knees and we look at the world from three feet and below, citing all the potential hazards."

Babyproofers Plus is one of a few local companies that specialized in baby proofing. This is more than outlets and cabinet locks – here, the experts think of everything.

"We can look at a house in a different light than the parents," says Applebaum. "Something right in front of your face may be completely out of the norm."

Things like stand-alone lamps; so they don't tip over, the experts stick them to the wall. Or how about velcroing heavy paintings so kids can't pull on them, or changing door jams with edible parts? Or even locking swinging doors that can trap fingers.

Aside from the installation, the experts also give parents an education. For example, they say the biggest mistake they see has to do with the baby monitor. Most parents put it near the crib or even it it, but the wire can prove to be a hazard.

As for the process, it works in two parts; the education and the installation. First the experts come in for a consultation, evaluate your home and give you a long

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Jill Scott

Jill Scott covers the Home beat for NY1 News. She joined NY1 in 1999 as a news writer.



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list of things that could be done.

Then parents can either do it on their own, or select which items they want done in their home, and have the baby proofers do it for them.

"We knew that we could baby proof the apartment for ourselves, but knowing the professional baby proofers were out there, we wanted to make sure our apartment was as safe as possible," says parent Jennifer Motelson. "We don't have a playroom or a basement I can put him in. Our whole apartment is his playroom."

As for pricing, the consultation is \$60, and then if you decide you want the installation, that can start at around \$300-\$500, depending on the space and how much you have done.

We all know babies can find their way into anything. It's just up to parents to make sure they stay out of trouble.

For more information on Babyproofers Plus, call (212) 628-8052.

- Jill Scott

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