

High Chairs

Highchairs are a great way for your older baby or toddler to be able to join you at the table and somewhere safe and stable for your child to eat, providing safety features are taken into account.

Considerations

- The high chair must be large enough to accommodate your child until they are big enough to use a regular chair. Be aware that a smaller child may slip through larger openings.
- Choose a high chair fitted with a 5-Point adjustable harness to keep your child secure and prevent them from climbing or falling out of the chair. The straps should be secure when buckled and easy for you to operate.
- Select a highchair that has arm rests and a foot rest.
- A removable and adjustable height tray is useful. If the tray is removable, the highchair should have a bar in place to prevent the child from falling forward once it is removed.
- Check the weight range of the high chair you are purchasing. The chair should be sturdy with legs that taper out.
- Ensure that there are no protrusions or sharp edges or spaces where fingers or toes could get pinched or caught.
- Check that folding high chairs are stable and that locks work properly and are easy to operate.

Clip on Chairs

Before you purchase a seat designed to attach to a table, make sure your table is a heavy one and is able to support the seat without tipping over. Make sure that slip-resistant mounting devices are in good condition. *Kidsafe NSW* recommends to use extreme caution attaching a seat designed to attach to a table.

'Real life' Case

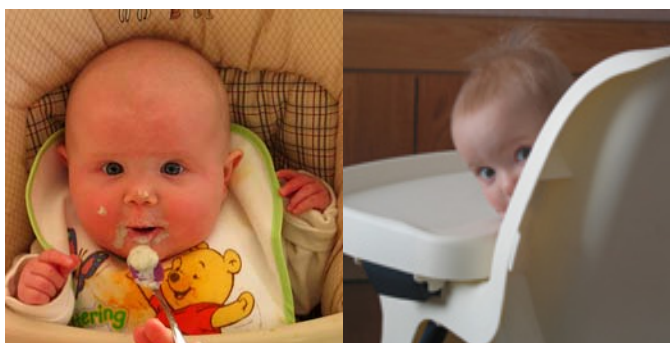
A boy aged 20 months, suddenly stood up in highchair (no shoulder harness) and fell out causing severe concussion.



**INJURIES INVOLVING
HIGH CHAIRS
ACCOUNT FOR
MANY NURSERY
FURNITURE
ACCIDENTS**



IT IS SAFER FOR THE ADULT TO GET DOWN LOW TO THE CHILD'S HEIGHT, THAN FOR THE CHILD TO BE UP HIGH AT THE ADULT'S HEIGHT.



Second-Hand High Chairs

If you are thinking of purchasing or are given a second-hand high chair, make sure it has all the necessary safety features, and is still in sound condition. Think seriously before accepting or using a second-hand high chair particularly if it is showing signs of corrosion, has frayed straps; has no harness; is cracked or contains sharp edges; loose bolts or screws that can't be tightened.

If you are buying a second-hand high chair that doesn't have a harness, purchase a **5-point adjustable harness** and secure the harness to the high chair.

Secure any loose or broken parts **immediately**.

Repair any tears in the seat, as the foam padding can cause **choking**.

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Safe Practices

- Supervise your child in the high chair at all times. If you have to leave the room, take the child out of the high chair and take the child with you.
- Ensure that your child is buckled securely into the high chair.
- Ensure that the child's hands are free from entrapment when adjusting or placing the tray into position.
- Store the high chair out of reach when not in use.
- If the high chair is adjustable, position the chair at its lowest point to the ground.
- Secure wheel locks.
- Ensure that the high chair is positioned at least 500mm away from any dangerous areas, including:
 - ◇ Stoves
 - ◇ Doorways
 - ◇ Appliance cords
 - ◇ Windows
 - ◇ Curtains or blind cords
 - ◇ Heaters

