

General Home Safety Recommendations After a Child Crisis Event

The following safety tips may help to keep things safe right now after an escalated crisis event, and help to reduce further escalations/crises:

1. In the home environment, maintain a “low-key” atmosphere while maintaining regular routines
2. Follow your typical house rules, but pick your battles appropriately, for example:
 - immediately intervene with aggressive or dangerous behaviors
 - if your child is just using oppositional words, it may be wise to ignore those behaviors
3. Provide appropriate supervision until the child's crisis is resolved
4. Make a crisis prevention plan by identifying likely triggers for a crisis (such as an argument), and **plan with your child** what the preferred actions would be for the next time the triggers occur (such as calling a friend, engaging in a distracting activity or going to a personal space)
5. Encourage your child to attend school, unless otherwise directed by your provider
6. Make sure that you and your child attend the next scheduled appointment with their provider
7. Administer medications as directed by your child's medical or psychiatric provider
8. Go into each day/evening with a plan for how time will be spent — this should help prevent boredom and arguments in the moment
9. Secure and lock up all medications and objects your child could use to hurt him/herself and/or use to attempt suicide. When locking up items, ensure your child does not have knowledge of their location, the location of the key, or the combination to any padlock used to secure them. This includes:
 - Sharp objects like knives and razors
 - Materials that can be used for strangulation attempts, such as belts, cords, ropes and sheets
 - Firearms and ammunition (locked and kept in separate/different locations from each other)
 - All medications of all family members, including all over the counter medicines. If your child takes medication of any type, you should administer it for the time being (unless instructed to stop it by your care provider)

In the event of another crisis, please do the following:

- If you believe that you, your child, or another person is no longer safe as a result of your child's behavior, call 911 to have your child transported to the emergency department closest to your home
- Consider calling your local county crisis hotline, which are listed at: www.hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-and-supports/behavioral-health-recovery/mental-health-crisis-lines
- Consider calling the national suicide hotline: 1-800-273-8255

This resource page is now available in Spanish at www.seattlechildrens.org/pal