



PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATES OF ELIZABETHTOWN, PLLC

The Crib

Guidelines for crib safety were enacted in 1974, so antique cribs need to be checked for safety. The slats must be no more than 2-3/8 inches apart, such that a soda can can't fit through. There should be no cutouts in the head or footboard. If the crib has high corner posts, they should not extend more than 5/8 inch above the top of the crib so that clothes won't be caught. Make sure it's not painted with lead-based paint, as well.

Bumper pads are not required for infants. Ties should be no longer than 6 inches long and bumper pads should be secured in at least 6 different areas to keep them from falling away from the sides. They should be removed when the child can pull up to standing.

A general rule is that when a child is 35 inches tall or the height of the crib's side rail is less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of his height, he should be moved to a regular bed.