

TRR – What is That?!

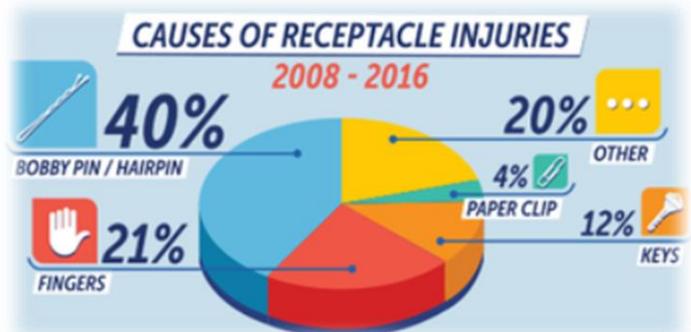
I just had a wonderful weekend with my grandchildren who are 2 and 4-years old. What a delight they are to have around and they open your eyes to the world you once had when your own children were toddlers. It's fun to play, to make cookies, to color, and before you know it, you are into full parent mode again. Those familiar phrases come back, such as don't stand on that chair, be careful climbing out of the bunk bed, don't put your fingers in there, etc. Ahhh, what memories!

Yet, as they visit, it makes me rethink the safety of my home with these precious little ones. Did you know . . .

- 33% of parents do not have their outlets child-proofed.
- 86% of parents that childproofed their home used plastic outlet covers.
- 100% of all 2-4 year olds were able to remove one type of plastic outlet cover within 10 seconds (in a study by Temple University).
- 33% of parents of don't know if their daycare has protection on outlets.

And, we haven't even begun to mention the homes of grandparents!

The good news is we now have technology to make these outlets safer. Because most likely, you had a sibling or friend who learned the hard way of what happens when you poke something in one of these outlets! Check out the visual from Electrical Safety Foundation International.



TRRs stands for Tamper Resistance Receptacle. They provide a low maintenance solution to prevent childhood electrical shock and burns and now required in all new home construction. As stated from the Electrical Safety Foundation International, TRRs look just like ordinary outlets, but are designed with spring-loaded receptacle cover plates that close off the receptacle openings, or slots. When equal pressure is simultaneously applied to both sides, the receptacle cover plates open to allow the

standard plug to make contact with the receptacle contact points. Without this simultaneous pressure, the cover plates remain closed, preventing insertion of foreign objects and protecting your children from painful, traumatic electrical injuries.

TRRs cost about 50 cents more than a regular outlet and should be installed by a licensed electrician. That is cheap when you consider what you could be risking. . . the chance to hear, as my little granddaughter so exclaimed at the dinner table, *I love you grandma*, and my heart melted. (And yes, she did get an extra chocolate chip cookie that night!)