



General Household Safety

It's a good idea to take the time to 'crawl' around your home and get an idea of where the dangers to your child might lie.

Seeing things at your child's eye level will give you a clear appreciation of safety issues you may not have considered, allowing you to safety proof your home from top to bottom. The basics:

- Make sure your home is fitted with a smoke alarm. Replace batteries as soon as they run out and test your alarm regularly
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach
- Use plug socket covers to stop children putting fingers or other objects into sockets

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For additional fact sheets see www.ihv.org.uk

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The Start4Life Information Service for Parents provides free information and advice. Find out more at: bit.ly/1iC4rr0

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- Store all medicines out of your child's reach – painkillers are 1 of the most common causes of children being admitted to hospital for poisoning. Cosmetics, perfumes and essential oils should also be stored away from your children.
- Store chemical and cleaning products (including common items such as detergent liquitabs) where children cannot see or reach them. General household cleaning products can be stored in a cupboard with a child safety lock, so you're able to access them but your child cannot. It's important to bear in mind that child-resistant tops on cleaning products are not fully child-proof and even children as young as 3 may be able to open them.
- Harmful garden products such as weed killer should also be stored well out of view and reach of children. The same applies to general household and garden DIY tools and appliances. Keep garden sheds and garages - where these sorts of items are often stored - locked at all times.
- New risks around the home are carefully monitored by organisations such as the Child Accident and Prevention Trust and it's a good idea to keep up-to-date with the latest guidance on safety in the home. A more recent area of concern is the use of e-cigarettes, for example, which pose a danger to children and should be kept (along with refills) well out of your child's sight and reach.
- You can get up-to-date information about child safety on the Child Accident and Prevention Trust website, bit.ly/1IFdahj
- If you have any worries or questions about safety around the home or when on holiday your Health Visitor can offer advice which follows current safety guidelines.

More information:

For more information on child safety visit:

bit.ly/1IFdahj

NHS Choices has more helpful advice on accidents in the home here:

bit.ly/1pNtjo4

And for comprehensive advice on safety for babies and toddlers, visit:

bit.ly/1uH9jS2