

# Keeping children SAFE



South Gloucestershire  
**CHIP**  
Child Injury  
Prevention Group



  
South Gloucestershire  
Council



Every year children in South Gloucestershire are admitted to hospital having suffered injuries that could have been avoided.

Injuries remain a major cause of death, disability and poor health in children, therefore, it is essential that we do all we can to prevent them. This leaflet highlights potential hazards in the home which are known to be causes of injury to children.

The home is the place where children suffer the most injuries, but simple steps can be taken to prevent these including keeping hazards out of a child's reach, supervision and an awareness of child safety.

Whilst children are developing, they will want to explore their surroundings and should be encouraged to risk assess. It is however important to consider what they may fall on, off or into, as well as what they can reach, touch and put in their mouths.

Safety in the home		
Question	Yes	No
Do you keep matches, lighters, cigarettes and e-cigarettes (vapers) out of sight and reach of children?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you ensure that alcohol, is kept out of the reach of children?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you store all medicines safely in the kitchen, out of sight and reach of children?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you make sure that all cleaning fluids, dishwasher tablets, cosmetics and perfumes are kept out of sight and reach of children?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are all of the above chemicals and products locked away using cupboard locks and stored in their original safety proof containers (where applicable)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you have at least one smoke detector fitted in the home and do you test it weekly?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you have a night time fire safety routine and fire escape plan?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you have a working Carbon Monoxide monitor fitted in the home?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are electric sockets safe and not overloaded?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you always keep the iron out of reach of children?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are there locks/restrictors on all windows on the first floor and above?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are children's bouncy chairs and car seats always used on a safe ground surface at home?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<b>Living Room and Dining Room</b>		
<b>Question</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Is there a fixed fireguard in place on all fires? Is it fixed to the wall? (if applicable)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are age appropriate toys given to young children? Do you keep toys for older children away from babies and toddlers?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you keep batteries (e.g. button batteries) out of the sight and reach of children?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you make sure the tablecloth does not overhang?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you always keep hot drinks out of reach and avoid putting them on the floor or low tables? (including when you are holding a child/children)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Hall and Stairs</b>		
<b>Question</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Do you have appropriate safety gates fitted and are they used safely? (safety gates are only suitable for children under 24 months old)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you help a child/children learn how to use the stairs safely and correctly?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you keep the hall, stairs and landing free from clutter?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you have adequate lighting?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are the banister rail gaps close enough to prevent falling through?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<b>Bedroom</b>		
<b>Question</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Are all cots and beds safe and moved away from the windows and radiators? (think about cot bumpers, duvets, pillows)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you follow safe sleeping practices? (think about age appropriate sleeping - duvets, tog rating, sleeping bags, pillows - feet to foot position, no cot bumpers, toys removed from bed)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are blind cords and tie backs safe and out of reach? (there should be no visible loops, cords should be secured with a blind cleat)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you keep hair straighteners out of sight and reach at all times?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
If bunk beds are in use, are the safety precautions followed?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Bathroom</b>		
<b>Question</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Do you run the cold water first when filling a bath?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you have a thermostatic mixing valve on the hot tap?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you check the temperature of the water?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you use a non-slip bath / shower mat (for non-dimpled baths)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you supervise a child/children at all times in the bathroom?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you change nappies on the floor?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you keep all nappy sacks and plastic bags out of reach of children?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Kitchen		
Question	Yes	No
Do you keep children out of the kitchen or closely supervise them? (e.g. in a playpen)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Does the kettle have a short flex? Is it kept out of reach?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you have appropriate locks in use for kitchen drawers and cupboards?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you keep sharp knives and scissors out of sight and reach of children?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you use the cooker safely (back rings used, pan handles safe?)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you always strap young children into their highchair (5 point harness)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Does a child/children sit down when eating?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Garden and Outside Area		
Question	Yes	No
Do you keep all chemicals clearly labelled, in their original containers and locked away?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is play equipment secure, safe and sited over a soft surface?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you have secure fences to prevent children wandering off?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have you checked for poisonous plants in the garden?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are trampolines used safely, with a net and with supervision? (trampolines should not be fixed to hard ground and are not suitable for the under 6's)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you supervise young children outside, especially around water and ponds?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you ensure all items that could hold water are emptied, upturned or covered when not in use? e.g. paddling pool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you ensure that garden and outside areas are kept free from animal (e.g dog waste)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is your buggy/pushchair fitted with a harness?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**To find out more information about making  
your home safer for children, visit our  
safeguarding website:**

[sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/children](https://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/children)

Adapted from the Gwent Home Safety tool and the  
Keeping Children Safe at Home - Injury prevention Briefing (2014)

