

# Child Injury Prevention Home Safety Assessment

May 2024

Parent / Carer Contact Details				Practitioner Contact Details			
Name of parent / carer				Practitioner's Name			
Address				Practitioner's Workplace and phone number			
Postcode							
Home Telephone		Mobile		Practitioner's e-mail			
Number of children living in the household?							
Under 2 years			2-4 years			4-11 years	
						11+ years	
Name(s) of child(ren)							
Is Home Safety Equipment required?				Yes*		No	
<p><b>*If yes and the parent/carer is eligible for the Home Safety Equipment Scheme please complete the online form. <a href="#">Child Injury Prevention: Home Safety Equipment Referral for 0-4 year olds (office.com)</a></b></p> <p><b><u>Home Safety Assessment is to be retained by the practitioner and held as part of the child's records.</u></b></p>							

### Parent/Carer Agreement

Today I have had a home safety assessment carried out at my property and if required may be eligible for home safety equipment, which will help improve safety in the home.

I understand that South Gloucestershire Council and Sirona (CCHP) does not accept any liability for managing the hazards identified in my home or for failure to identify hazards that result in injury.

I understand that the information I have given will be used for monitoring and evaluation by Sirona and South Gloucestershire Council and will be treated as confidential by all concerned unless observations during the visit need to be shared.

All personal data will comply with the Data Protection Act (2018) and all information will be held for 6 years.

Signed:

Date:

Signed:

Date:

Referrer/Assessor:

Parent/Carer:

## Home Safety Assessment

**Choking, suffocation and strangulation are the leading cause of injury related death among the under-fives**

### Choking, suffocation and strangulation

### Recommended actions for parent/carer

Complete a visual check for small objects (coins, toys) within child's reach?

- Babies and young children explore using their mouths
- Ensure that children are given toys that are age appropriate
- Encourage parents to get onto their hands and knees to see the world through their child's eyes, spot potential hazards and move them out of the child's reach

Does the property have blinds? If so do the blind cords have breakers fitted and/or cleats attached to the wall?

- Hanging and strangulation from looped blinds and window cords can be prevented if the cords are fixed.

Where are nappy sacks kept? Are they out of babies reach?

- Nappy sacks don't have any holes in them, and if a baby or child got hold of one it can lead to suffocation, therefore store out of reach of children

Does your child(ren) sit down when eating? Do you cut up foods to make them safer to eat?

- Children can choke on food as well as small objects
- Prop feeding babies is very dangerous as they are unable to push a bottle away

Do you follow safe sleeping practices?

- Think about age appropriate sleeping materials e.g sleeping bags, duvets and pillows, no cot bumpers and all toys removed from the bed

**Falls are the main cause of injury-related hospital admissions for the under-fives.**

### Falls

### Recommended actions for parent/carer

Are baby bouncers and car seats always placed on the floor?

- The safest place for baby seats (for example bouncers and car seats) is on the floor

Are babies changed on the floor?

- Falls from raised surfaces can result in serious injuries, it is therefore safest to change and dress babies on the floor
- Babies should not be left unattended on changing tables even ones with side bars

Are there bunk beds in the property?

- Bunk beds are not suitable for children under 6, if there are bunk beds advise parent/carer not to allow children to play on them

Does the furniture have any sharp corners on which a child could sustain an injury?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If furniture edges have sharp corners, use corner protectors to prevent your child from being injured</li> </ul>	
<p>Is outdoor play equipment secure, safe (good working order) and sited over a soft surface?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trampolines should be used with supervision and a safety net, they are not suitable for children under the age of 6</li> </ul>	
<p>Do you ensure that your child is always securely strapped in to highchairs, car seats and pushchairs? (5 point harness)</p>	
<p><b>Hall and Stairs</b></p> <p>Are the hall and stairs adequately lit and free from clutter? Is the hall and stairs carpet secure? Are banister rail gaps close enough to prevent children getting stuck and/or falling through?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A common way that babies are injured in a fall is from an adult carrying them who trips or slips</li> <li>Clearing clutter from stairs/thoroughfares and making sure that the carpet is secure reduces the chances of a fall</li> <li>If banister rail gaps are wide enough for a child to fall through or get stuck discuss this with the family.</li> </ul>	
<p>Are you showing children how to go up and down stairs safely?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teaching children to climb up stairs going forwards and down stairs going backwards will help them learn how to go up and down stairs safely</li> <li>If safety gates are used is the youngest child under 24 months old? They are not suitable for children over 24 months.</li> </ul>	
<p>Do you have safety gates in the home?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety gates should only be used to protect children under the age of 24 months from access to hazards and other areas as this is the age to which the gate standard is tested.</li> </ul>	
<p>Are window restrictors used on 1<sup>st</sup> floor level and above? If there are window restrictors in place do they work?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Window restrictors need to be in good working order so that children can't climb out of the window and fall</li> <li>Make sure that beds and other furniture are not placed by a window as children could climb and fall out</li> </ul>	
<p><b>70% of poisoning related hospital admissions are because of medicines and 20% are from household/garden chemicals</b></p>	
<p><b>Poisoning</b></p>	<p><b>Recommended actions for parent/carer</b></p>
<p>Where are medicines stored? Are they in the kitchen in a locked cupboard? Are they out of sight and out of reach?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As soon as your baby starts showing signs of crawling, they have the potential to open</li> </ul>	

<p>cupboards, bags, and access dangerous chemicals and medicines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Store hazards in high cupboards that are out of sight and reach of children</li> <li>• Make sure that handbags are stored out of the reach of children - these may contain items which are harmful such as medicines, coins, e-cigarettes</li> </ul>	
<p>Where are chemicals such as cleaning fluids, liquidabs/dishwasher tablets, cosmetics and garden chemicals stored? Are they out of sight and out of reach using cupboard restrictors?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These should be stored in a locked cupboard – kitchens and bathrooms in particular are often full of potential poisons so children should be closely supervised</li> <li>• Always keep chemicals in their original container and put them away straight after use</li> </ul>	
<p>If there is alcohol in the home is it out of reach of children?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcohol is poisonous to a child and should therefore be stored out of their reach</li> </ul>	
<p>Do you make sure that e-cigarettes and e-cigarette refills, are out of reach of children?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very small amounts of vaping liquid can be harmful to a child because of the concentration of nicotine</li> <li>• Although some are stored in 'child-proof' packaging children may be able to work out how to get into it</li> </ul>	
<p>Do you make sure that batteries e.g. button batteries are kept out of reach of children?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Button batteries can be extremely harmful especially if swallowed, as well as being a choking hazard they can react with saliva to burn through bodily tissue</li> <li>• Safety regulations dictate that toys using button batteries should have a battery compartment lockable with a screw</li> </ul>	
<p>Do you ensure that garden and outside areas are kept free from animal e.g. dog waste?</p>	
<p><b>Hot drinks are the biggest cause of burns and scalds and can still burn a child's skin up to 15 minutes after they were made</b></p>	
<p><b>Burns and scalds</b></p>	<p><b>Recommended actions for parent/carer</b></p>
<p>Are hot drinks always kept out of reach of children (not on coffee table), including when holding a baby/child?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having a hot drink while holding a baby is dangerous - babies can kick or reach up to grab at the hot drink</li> <li>• As children become more mobile their reach is greater – never leave a hot drink in their reach</li> <li>• An average one year old is 2ft 6 inches the same height as a dining table</li> </ul>	
<p>Do you add cold water before hot when filling the bath?</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This reduces the risk of a child being scalded and allows you to control the temperature of the bath</li> </ul>	
<p>Do you always check the temperature of the bath water?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A child's skin is up to fifteen times thinner than adults so what appears to be warm to us can be too hot for a child (thermostatic mixing valves reduce the risk of scalding)</li> </ul>	
<p>Does the kettle have a short flex and is it kept out of reach of children?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kettle scalds can be very serious because of the amount and temperature of the water</li> <li>Keep kettles at the back of the work surface and make sure the lead isn't hanging over the edge</li> <li>If you use a cooker top kettle then keep this at the back of the hob rather than the front</li> </ul>	
<p>Is the cooker used safely (back rings used, pan handles safe)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Like kettles, scalds from pans can be severe</li> <li>Make sure that the pan handles are always turned inwards and that the back rings are used rather than the front ones</li> </ul>	
<p>Are children closely supervised in the kitchen?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The kitchen can be a dangerous room in the house, the best way to minimise danger is constant supervision</li> </ul>	
<p>Are irons / hair straighteners out of sight and reach all times?</p> <p>Do you keep hair straighteners in a safety pouch?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hair straighteners and irons can reach 230°C and still burn 15 minutes after they have been switched off</li> <li>Make sure that hair straighteners are put in a heat-proof pouch after use and always stored out of reach of a child</li> </ul>	
<p>Are matches, lighters and cigarettes kept out of sight and reach?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children are fascinated by flames, they are also good at copying what an adult does</li> <li>A child-resistant lighter may not necessarily be child proof</li> </ul>	
<p>If there is a fire place in the property – is there a fixed fireguard? Is it fixed to the wall? (if applicable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fireguards are an effective barrier to have in place to prevent burns</li> <li>Never store anything (for example clothes, toys) on top of a fireguard as these could catch light</li> </ul>	
<b>Drowning is the second leading cause of injury related death for the under-fives</b>	
<b>Drowning</b>	<b>Recommended actions for parent/carer</b>
<p>Do you use a non-slip mat in the bath?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-slip bath mats or stickers in the bath can reduce the risk of a child slipping in it</li> </ul>	
<p>Are children supervised all the time in the bathroom?</p>	

<p>Never leave a child alone in the bathroom, even for a second - they don't have the knowledge or experience to recognise danger</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bath seats are not safety devices and can easily topple over</li> <li>• Another risk to be aware of in the bath is scalding from children turning on the hot tap</li> </ul>	
<p>Are paddling pools always emptied, upturned or covered?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children can drown in as little as 5cm of water</li> <li>• Make sure that paddling pools are emptied after use and upturned to prevent rain water collecting and becoming a drowning hazard</li> </ul>	
<p>Are ponds secured?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ponds ideally need to be filled in, or fenced off</li> <li>• Always supervise children when visiting friends and/or family who have ponds</li> </ul>	
<b>Around the home</b>	<b>Recommended actions for parent/carer</b>
<p>Are sharp knives and scissors kept out of children's reach and sight?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knives, graters, and peelers are common items that can lead to nasty cuts</li> <li>• Store all sharp kitchen tools where children can't reach and/or in a drawer/cupboard that has a safety lock or catch</li> </ul>	
<p>Do you have at least one smoke detector fitted in the home and do you test it weekly?  Do you have a fire escape plan (including night time) and practise it regularly with your family?  Do you keep keys near windows (out of reach) so you can get out in an emergency?  Do you have a working Carbon Monoxide monitor fitted in the home?  Do you ensure that electric sockets are safe and not overloaded?  Do you have gas appliances and heaters checked annually?  <b>Is a referral to Avon Fire and Rescue for a home fire safety visit needed?</b></p>	
<p>Do you have a first aid kit?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is essential so you can deal with any minor accidents or injuries that occur</li> </ul>	

**The Home Safety Assessment is to be held by the practitioner along with the child's records.**