**KITCHEN SAFETY**

This leaflet provides advice on how you can help keep your child with

challenging behaviour safe in the kitchen. The Children’s Occupational

Therapy Service offers a range of leaflets with advice on how to keep your

child safe and this can be accessed through the Intranet under the Children with Disabilities Service.

Children with challenging behaviour may have little awareness of danger and

may need ongoing protection from harmful substances and hazardous items.

You may wish to alter cupboard and door locks and handles of doors and

cupboards in the kitchen for your child’s safety.

**General considerations**

Lock away dangerous items in the kitchen, for example knifes,

medicines or dangerous liquids.

Store dangerous items out of reach of children.

Electric cookers are safer than gas cookers.

A stair gate or stable door at the kitchen door may be a good option, so

you can keep an eye on your child and keep them safe outside the

kitchen.

Consider high handles so that your child cannot open the door

independently, or fit a loop and catch at the top of the cupboard door.

A gas key can be used to cut off the gas supply when not in use.

You should consider fire safety and escape routes, when fitting any

locks.

**Examples of possible solutions**

**Locks:**

The Air Clip is a gadget that clips across the top of the door and keeps the

door slightly open. It helps to keep your child out of the kitchen. There is no

key and the clip has a quick release mechanism for adults. This is simpler

and safer than locking doors.

Magnetic Locks are child proof locks for cupboards and drawers. They are

secure, concealed and impossible for the child to open without the

magnetic key. It is also possible to deactivate the lock temporarily.

Appliance locks prevent children from opening appliances such as the

fridge, microwave and oven.

**Cooker top guards** prevent children from accessing the cooker hobs. This

will only work for smaller children.

**Oven Guards** keep your child from touching hot oven doors.

**Examples of Suppliers:**

Fledglings – advice and information for children with special needs.

www.fledglings.org.uk 0845 458 1124

Kid Rapt – child safety www.childsafety.co.uk 01582 493 382

Child Alert – child safety www.childalert.co.uk info@childalert.co.uk

Safe Tots – child safety www.safetots.co.uk 01438 728 888

Plug Lock – plug socket cover www.pluglock.co.uk 01535 646 071

A and E Squire LTD – locks www.nichelocks.com 01922 476 243



The lists of companies provided in these information leaflets are not approved

lists. Sutton Council accept no liability with regard to any purchases from the companies listed. The list of companies provided is not exhaustive.

 **WINDOW SAFETY**

This leaflet provides advice on how to help keep your child with challenging behaviour safe around windows. The Children’s Occupational Therapy Service offers a range of leaflets with advice on how to keep your child safe and these can be accessed through the Intranet within the Children with Disabilities Service.

Children with challenging behaviour may have little awareness of danger, and measures may need to be taken to prevent them from breaking glass or jumping or falling from windows.

**General Considerations:**

* Children with challenging behaviour may need close supervision at all times.
* It is advisable to keep the area below windows clear of furniture to prevent your child from climbing.
* Windows may need to be kept locked while your child is in the room. When your child is out of the room the windows can be opened for ventilation.
* Housing Associations may not agree to provision of window restrictor catches as this may prevent evacuation in the event of a fire. If installed you should advise your Housing Association.
* Before fitting any extra locks, fire safety should be taken into consideration. The Fire Service is able to provide advice.

**Examples of possible solutions:**

* Glass safety film fitted on windows.
* Interior window protection frame with lockable polycarbonate door, for example supplied through Tough Furniture.
* Replacing ordinary glass with safety glass or makrolon (polycarbonate) sheets.
* Sliding window and door blocker, for example Clippasafe
* Window restrictors and window locks
* If it is not possible to lock windows, an alarm can be fitted to alert you if your child opens the window. Window alarms are available through the internet.
* For children with challenging behaviour who have a tendancy to pull on curtain rails, curtains can be held up with Velcro attachments. Alternative curtain rails are available that magnetically attach so can easily be reattached.
* If it is not possible to keep curtains in place, plastic adhesive window covering to give privacy whilst letting in light are available through the internet.
* Shutters or security grills on the outside of the windows may be needed if other options have failed.

**Examples of Suppliers:**

* Glass safety film

Mothercare [www.mothercare.com](http://www.mothercare.com) or most DIY stores

* Interior window protection frame

Tough furniture [www.toughfurniture.com](http://www.toughfurniture.com)

* Toughened safety glass

White Windows [www.whitewindows.co.uk](http://www.whitewindows.co.uk)

* Makrolon sheets:

Eagle boat windows [www.eagleboatwindows.co.uk](http://www.eagleboatwindows.co.uk) or DIY stores

* Sliding window and door blocker

Clippasafe [www.clippasafe.co.uk](http://www.clippasafe.co.uk)

* Window restrictors

Child alert [www.childalert.co.uk](http://www.childalert.co.uk)

UPVC hardware [www.upvc-hardware.co.uk](http://www.upvc-hardware.co.uk)

Locks on line [www.locksonline.co.uk](http://www.locksonline.co.uk)

Primera Life [www.primeralife.co.uk](http://www.primeralife.co.uk)

Kid Rapt [www.childsafety.co.uk](http://www.childsafety.co.uk)

DIY stores

* Custom made bracket window restrictors: Geoff Stokes 0208-6760047
* Window alarms [www.safestyle-windows.co.uk](http://www.safestyle-windows.co.uk)

 [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

* Curtains and rails

Colourways ltd. [www.colourwaysltd.co.uk](http://www.colourwaysltd.co.uk)

Primera Life [www.primeralife.co.uk](http://www.primeralife.co.uk)

* Plastic adhesive window covering for privacy while letting light in:

Kid Rapt [www.childsafety.co.uk](http://www.childsafety.co.uk)

DIY stores

* Lockable wooden shutters

DIY stores/Internet

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 **GAS, RADIATORS and EXPOSED PIPE SAFETY**

This leaflet provides advice on how to help keep your child with challenging behaviour safe around gas, radiators and exposed pipes. The Children’s Occupational Therapy Service offers a range of leaflets with advice on how to keep your child safe and these can be accessed through the Intranet within the Children with Disabilities Service.

Children with challenging behaviour may have a reduced awareness of danger. They may be at risk of burns or injuries from sharp corners. The family may be exposed to noise when radiators and pipes are hit. If pipes are banged continuously over a period of time the joints can become loose and hot water may start to leak. Gas switches need to be secure from children who may turn on the gas, putting the family at risk.

General considerations:

When employing a tradesman for gas works, it is advisable to use a qualified gas fitter who is registered on the Gas Safe Register.

[www.gassaferegister.co.uk](http://www.gassaferegister.co.uk) 0800 4085500

**Examples of possible solutions**

**Radiators:**

* Rearrange furniture to reduce access to the radiator
* Radiator covers and guards can be purchased. These are made from padded material that protects children from the heat of the radiator and from sharp edges.
* Radiators can be boxed in with the purpose made radiator covers (metal or wooden) to reduce the danger of burns to limit the amount of noise if they are hit.
* Low surface temperature radiators are available to replace standard radiators.

**Water pipes and cisterns:**

* Water pipes can be boxed in by reliable carpenter or plumber.
* Toilet cisterns can be concealed to prevent your child from opening and accessing the cistern water. This can also assist to hide toilet pipes.

**Gas:**

* Gas isolation switches enable you to switch off the gas with a key. This stops the flow of gas through the appliance, for example the cooker or fire when not in use.
* Ensure that the gas switches are out of reach of your child, or locked away.

**Fire guards:**

* Fire guards can be fitted wherever there is an open fire. Fireplace guards are simple to fit and come in a variety of sizes to fit most fireplaces.

**Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms:**

* These provide vital early warning and extra time to escape in the event of a fire or gas leaking. Ensure that the alarms and batteries are in working order on a regular basis.

**EXAMPLES OF SUPPLIERS**

**General child safety:**

* **Safetots** [**www.safetots.co.uk**](http://www.safetots.co.uk) **01438-728888**
* **Kid Rapt** [**www.childsafety.co.uk**](http://www.childsafety.co.uk) **01582-493382**

**Plumbing Stores:**

* Stores such as Argos, Screwfix, Homebase, B&Q, Wickes

**Radiator covers:**

* **Coverad** [**www.coverad.co.uk**](http://www.coverad.co.uk)
* **Radshield** [**www.radshiled.org.uk**](http://www.radshiled.org.uk)
* **Jtech Services** [**www.jtechservices.co.uk**](http://www.jtechservices.co.uk)
* **Premier Radiator covers** [**www.premierradiatorcovers.co.uk**](http://www.premierradiatorcovers.co.uk)
* **Guardsman products** [**www.radiator-guards.co.uk**](http://www.radiator-guards.co.uk)

London Fore Brigade offer free home fire safety visits. You can contact them to request fire safety advice or a home visit, and they may fit free smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

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 **WATER SAFETY**

This leaflet provides advice on how to help keep your child with challenging behaviour safe around water. The Children’s Occupational Therapy Service offers a range of leaflets with advice on how to keep your child safe and these can be accessed through the Intranet within the Children with Disabilities Service.

A child with challenging behaviour may really enjoy water but may use water inappropriately in the home, causing flooding and damage to the property.

See below for ideas to minimise this risk.

**General considerations**

* Ensure that your child has adequate access to drinking water throughout the day, for example in the form of bottled water.
* Make sure that you do not stop your child from getting to the toilet when necessary.

**Examples of possible solutions**

* Inflatable tap covers.
* Surestop water switch – a control for your water supply
* Magiplug for sink or bath – the pressure of the water above opens the plug when the sink or bath is full. These are available from various companies on the internet including Nottingham Rehab Supplies.
* Automatic operated taps.
* Anti-vandalism taps.
* Adjust the water temperature to prevent scalding temperatures.
* Thermostatic locks on taps to prevent water reaching scalding temperatures.
* Toilet cistern boxed in behind a wall or boxing.
* Lock for toilet seat.
* Locks on the outside of bathroom doors.
* Slide bolt fitted high up on the outside of the bathroom door that your child cannot reach it.
* Where towel and shower curtain rails are pulled off the wall, magnetic versions of rails are available commercially where the rail pulls apart from the brackets under pressure and can be easily reattached. These are also available for wardrobe rails, curtain rails and shower curtain rails.
* Sometimes when using the bath, children splash a significant amount of water due to challenging behaviour. This can result in damage to the bathroom flooring. Where this issue cannot be resolved with behavioural input, you may need to change the bathroom flooring to one that creates a watertight seal and is safe to use in wet areas (for example altro marine flooring) with a gully installed to drain excess water.
* Polycarbonate/safety mirrors are available where there is a risk of your child breaking mirrors.

**Examples of suppliers**

* Tap covers Surestop [www.surestop.co.uk](http://www.surestop.co.uk)
* Magiplug Nottingham Rehab Supplies [www.nrs-uk.co.uk](http://www.nrs-uk.co.uk)
* Magnetic rails Primera Ltd [www.primeralife.co.uk](http://www.primeralife.co.uk)

Colourways [www.colourwaysltd.com](http://www.colourwaysltd.com)

* Polycarbonate/safety mirrors [www.toughfurniture.com](http://www.toughfurniture.com)
* Safety bathroom flooring [www.altro.com](http://www.altro.com)
* Kid Rapt – child safety [www.childsafety.co.uk](http://www.childsafety.co.uk)
* Child Alert – child safety [www.childalert.co.uk](http://www.childalert.co.uk)
* Fledglings – advice and information for children with special needs.

[www.fledglings.org.uk](http://www.fledglings.org.uk)

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 **STAIR SAFETY AND SAFETY GATES**

This leaflet provides advice on how to help keep your child with challenging behaviour safe from danger. The Children’s Occupational Therapy Service offers a range of leaflets with advice on how to keep your child safe and these can be accessed through the Intranet within the Children with Disabilities Service.

Children with challenging behaviour may have little awareness of danger and may need a safety gate to reduce risk of injury in the kitchen or on the stairs.

**General considerations**

* Your child may still require a high level of supervision on the stairs and when in the kitchen, despite safety measures being in place.
* A safety gate should only be fitted if there is no danger of the child attempting to climb over it.
* Gates purchased from Mothercare or similar outlets are generally only recommended for children under 2 yrs of age.

**Examples of possible solutions**

* Large dog gates are higher and more robust than a standard children’s safety gate. If possible, trial one before purchasing.
* Half door fitted at the bottom of the staircase, with a bolt fitted where your child cannot access it.
* When a safety gate or half door is not appropriate, a stable door (top and bottom half open separately) may be fitted on the kitchen or bedroom doorway. This allows you to supervise your child while keeping them safe from danger.
* A visual panel or spy hole in a door allows you to check on your child without disturbing them. Can be purchased at most DIY stores.
* If your child with challenging behaviour climbs they may be in danger of falling from a landing. Balustrades may need to be built up to prevent this.

**Examples of Suppliers:**

* Stair gates: Mothercare [www.mothercare.com](http://www.mothercare.com)
* Large dog gate: Argos [www.argos.co.uk](http://www.argos.co.uk)
* Half door: a full height door cut down to a suitable size- builder or contractor.
* Stable door: most DIY stores
* Door with visual panel or spy hole: most DIY stores

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 **OUTDOOR SAFETY**

This leaflet provides advice on how to help keep your child with challenging behaviour safe outside. The Children’s Occupational Therapy Service offers a range of leaflets with advice on how to keep your child safe and these can be accessed through the Intranet within the Children with Disabilities Service.

Children with challenging behaviour may have little awareness of danger and may need a form of safety restraint to protect them outdoors.

**General considerations:**

* Children with challenging behaviour should be closely supervised at all times when outdoors.

**Examples of possible solutions:**

* Walking reins or wrist straps
* Reins may not be sufficient for some children who could be safer using a buggy or wheelchair. The local wheelchair service may be able to assist. Buggies and wheelchairs can be fitted with 5 point harnesses and would have footrests to prevent the child from dragging their feet.

**Examples of Suppliers**

* Crelling harnesses – walking reins and straps. Crelling offers a sale or return facility to allow for a 14 day trial period. If the equipment is not returned they will send an invoice. [www.crelling.com](http://www.crelling.com)
* Fledglings – walking reins attached to a back pack.

[www.fledglings.org.uk](http://www.fledglings.org.uk)

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**SENSORS AND TRACKING DEVICES**

This leaflet provides advice on how to help keep your child with challenging behaviour safe in your care. The Children’s Occupational Therapy Service offers a range of leaflets with advice on how to keep your child safe and these can be accessed through the Intranet within the Children with Disabilities Service.

If there is a risk that your child will **leave** your care due to reduced awareness of danger, you may need to consider sensors. These can alert you that your child has gone somewhere where he/she is not safely supervised. Tracking devices may also be helpful.

**General considerations:**

* Sensors and trackers **do not replace** the need for appropriate parental supervision.
* The alarm systems need to be checked regularly to ensure that they are operating effectively.
* Batteries need to be replaced on a regular basis.
* Ensure that pagers and sensors are placed out of reach of your child.

**Examples of possible solutions:**

* **Sensors** can be in the form of door opening sensors, window opening sensors, pressure mats to monitor access to doors, and sensors along the top of fences, gates and walls. The sensor sets off an alarm or alerts a pager system when triggered.
* **A tracking device** or **personal locator** is attached to the child and the pager alert remains with the parent or carer, who is alerted when the child has gone outside a set limit range.

**Examples of Suppliers**

**Sensors:**

Frequency precision [www.frequesncyprecision.com](http://www.frequesncyprecision.com)

Tunstall Group Ltd [www.tunstallgroup.com](http://www.tunstallgroup.com)

Sensorium [www.sensorium.co.uk](http://www.sensorium.co.uk)

Easylink electronics [www.easylinkuk.co.uk](http://www.easylinkuk.co.uk)

Natobe safety [www.natobe.co.uk](http://www.natobe.co.uk)

**Trackers and personal locators:**

Iseeka [www.iseeka.co.uk](http://www.iseeka.co.uk)

Buddi [www.buddi.co.uk](http://www.buddi.co.uk)

Child safe zones [www.childsafezones.co.uk](http://www.childsafezones.co.uk)

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 **VEHICLE SAFETY**

This leaflet provides advice on how to help keep your child with challenging behaviour safe in vehicles. The Children’s Occupational Therapy Service offers a range of leaflets with advice on how to keep your child safe and these can be accessed through the Intranet within the Children with Disabilities Service.

Children with challenging behaviour may have little awareness of danger and may need additional car seat restraints or specialist car seats to keep them safe while travelling in a vehicle.

**General considerations**

* It is not safe to hold a child on your lap, even if you are using a seat belt. If the vehicle is involved in an accident the child could be injured. It is a legal requirement for all passengers to wear passenger restraints.
* When a child has an additional restraint the carer and passengers in the vehicle should be aware of how to unfasten it in the event of an emergency.
* Always ensure that car seats are correctly fitted in line with the manufacturers instructions.

**Examples of Possible Solutions**

* Harness used in conjunction with the vehicle seat belt. Some harnesses are specially designed for children with challenging behaviour. Crelling offer a sale or return facility to allow a 14 day trail period. If the harness is returned there is a charge of postage and packing.
* The Unisafety Easy travel Magnet Harness is worn like a waistcoat and has a special magnetic key used by the parent or carer.
* Specialist car seats with a 5-point harness can be purchased and suit children up to about 12 years of age.

**Examples of Suppliers**

**Harnesses:**

* Crelling harnesses [www.crelling.com](http://www.crelling.com)
* Windmill Special Needs – Unisafety Easy Travel Magnet Harness

[www.windmillspecialneeds.co.uk](http://www.windmillspecialneeds.co.uk)

**Specialist car seats:**

* In-car Safety Centre [www.incarsafetycentre.co.uk](http://www.incarsafetycentre.co.uk)
* Sunrise Medical [www.sunrisemedcial.co.uk](http://www.sunrisemedcial.co.uk)

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