

# General Risk Assessment for the childminding home:

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008

Room	Risks	Actions
<b>All Rooms</b>		
Electric sockets	Children sticking objects into holes. Electrocution/death	Covering sockets with covers. Checking regularly that they are covered. Teaching children the dangers of electric sockets
House Plants	Poisonous Eating soil/leaves/flowers	Make sure plants are out of reach of children.
Windows and low level glass	Trap fingers Fall out or through windows Smash low level glass	<u>All</u> windows have locks on, and are locked, either shut or on the latch. Keys are out of the reach of children. Upstairs windows open far enough that they can be used as escape routes if needed. Low level glass is either safety glass or covered in protective film.
Cords on blinds and curtains	Strangulation Tripping up on.	Tie up cords out of reach of children.
Trailing wire and cables	Tripping/strangulation	Wires are tidy and out of reach. Make sure they are not in the way of people walking.
Flooring/rugs	Slipping/tripping Small children picking bits up off floor and choking on.	All floors are moped/swept/hovered daily and when needed throughout the day. Any spills are dealt with immediately. Rugs have anti-slip mats underneath.
Heating	Burning parts of bodies on radiators	Radiator temperatures are kept low enough to be able to hand touch to avoid burning.
Other		
<b>Entrance/Hall/landing</b>		
Front door-lockable and keys available	Children escaping People entering who shouldn't be. Fire hazard being trapped in an emergency	The door is always kept locked and the keys left in the door, so that people can escape in an emergency. For added safety there is a fence around the front garden, with a gate that is always kept shut. Children are not allowed to open the front door and are taught this from a very early age.
Stairs and banisters	Climbing alone and falling Tripping on steps Getting stuck in banisters Climbing up banisters	A portable stair gate is used on the days when we have crawling babies. Children are taught not to climb the stairs/go upstairs unless an adult is with them. The banisters are vertical and close

		together to prevent children getting stuck or climbing them.
Bags/Shoes/coats/belongings	Tripping/falling Preventing swift escape in emergency situations.	There are pegs on the wall in the hall, and a portable cloakroom stand, which the children put all their shoes/coats/bags on to keep them neat and tidy and out of the hallway walkthrough.
Smoke Alarm	Battery running out/ not going off in an emergency	The smoke alarms are checked weekly and are wired into the mains electric for added protection. They are situated in the hallway downstairs and on the landing upstairs.
<b>Reception Room/Lounge/Dining Room</b>		
Alcohol	Poisoning/death	All alcohol is in a cupboard with a lock on out of the reach of children.
Hot drinks	Burns/scolds	Care is taken with hot drinks. They are never put on the floor – always put on the table, out of children's reach. Adults only drink hot drinks when they have not got a child on their lap, or under the range of the hot drink.
Fires	Do not have a fire.	
Toys and resources in playroom, conservatory, and in the upstairs bedroom.	Infection Punctures/cuts/scraps from edges of toys chocking	All toys are cleaned regularly, either through the washing machine/dishwasher if appropriate or by hand with disinfectant. All toys are checked daily (as used) for damage and either taken out to be mended or discarded. Toys are age appropriate to prevent chocking and consideration taken as to the age of children present eg, older children do not have lego out with babies crawling under them.
<b>Kitchen</b>		
Knives and sharp implements	Cuts, punctures to parts of body	Knives are kept in a pot at the back of the work top, out of reach to children. Children are also taught of the dangers of knives.
Cooker/ Hob	Burns, scolds from direct heat or from spilling hot liquids onto children.	Whilst cooking tea, young children are not permitted to play in the kitchen, unless they are strapped into high chairs at the table. Older children are allowed to sit at the table and play, but discouraged from walking about or near the oven. The oven has safety glass on the front which remains cool.
Dangerous substances	Poisoning, chemical burns	All dangerous substances are in a cupboard with a lock on it. Children are not permitted to go in the cupboard. No

		dangerous substances are used when children are being minded. Children are also educated about NOT drinking or touching any bottles/packets that they are unfamiliar with.
Electrical appliances	electrocution	All electrical appliances are checked regularly for damage, and mended or discarded as appropriate. All electrical appliances are kept in a high cupboard out of reach, or pushed to the back of the work surface out of reach when not in use.
Kettle	Scolding/burn	It is very rare that the kettle is used when the children are being minded as I have a drinks machine that heats water as needed for that drink. The kettle uses the hob so it is never left unattended if it is used, as a naked flame is needed to heat the water.
Washing machine/tumble drier/dishwasher	Children climbing inside electrocution	When not in use, the doors are kept shut and the plug switched off to prevent the children from being able to use the machines. Wherever possible the machines are not used when children are being minded.
Fridge (food correctly stored, in date etc)	Bacteria/food poisoning/cross contamination.	All food is stored in appropriate containers. Each shelf is designated to different food types, fresh meat/fish being completely separate from other foods. I am registered with the EHO, so are regularly checked to make sure I am adhering to regulations. I check the temperature of my fridge daily, to ensure it is working correctly.
Pets (food bowls) Litter tray	Children eating pet food/animal faeces and becoming ill.	The cats are fed by the children as part of the daily routines, however the food is placed upstairs, so young children cannot get to it, and then the bowls removed after 1/2hr. The cats do not have a litter tray.
Highchairs	Children falling/climbing out of highchairs Bacteria/food poisoning	
<b>Bathroom/toilet</b>		
Medicines	Poisoning/overdoses	All medicines are kept in a locked non portable cabinet, which is high up on the downstairs toilet wall. It is clearly labelled. Children do not have access to the cupboard or the key
First Aid Box	Running out of something therefore not being able to carry out the first aid needed.  Items getting damaged/	There is nothing in the first aid box which could be dangerous to a child. It is situated in the downstairs loo, and all children are advised where it is in case they ever need to get it for us.

	mouldy/waterlogged	The box is made of metal, clearly labelled and is waterproof. It has clasps to keep it shut, which would prove very tricky for young hands to open, adding extra safety.
Toilet Brush	Bacteria growth/infection/ children splashing water over the floor and then slipping.	The toilet brush is kept on top of the bathroom cupboard, out of reach to children. It is regularly cleaned with bleach (when children are not being minded) and replaced every 6 months.
Temperature of water	Burns/scolds	The boiler is set so the water cannot reach too high a temperature. Young children are supervised when washing hands so that they do not use the hot water for too long.
Cleaning materials	As dangerous substances in kitchen.  No cleaning materials are kept in the bathroom or toilet.	
Locks on doors	Children locking themselves in.	The locks on the bathrooms and toilet are locks that you can open from the outside, to prevent children becoming trapped. Children are also discouraged from locking the toilet door.
Hand towels	Cross contamination/ infection spread	Each child has their own hook in the downstairs toilet which has a hand towel on. These are washed daily. If they become particularly dirty during the day they will be changed as many times as need that day.
<b>Bedrooms</b>		
Safe bedding/cots	Suffocation infection	All cots/travel cots have the British kite mark. They are checked daily for damage. All sheets/blankets are changed on a daily basis. Sheets are fitted correctly and children tucked in safely. Children are checked regularly throughout their sleeps. Children are only put into beds when safe to do so, and if needed have bed sides up. Some children have stair gates over their doors whilst they are sleeping to prevent them from coming down the stairs alone.
<b>Garden</b>		
Gates and fences	Safety issues-people entering the garden or children escaping from the garden. Splinters from fence.	All fences are well maintained. All fences are high (over 6ft) The gate is a high gate with a bolt on the inside, out of children reach. It is always bolted when children are not he

		garden.
surfaces	Slipping/falling and grazing on hard surface. Objects hidden in long grass eg toys/animal faeces	The grass is kept short and tidy. The paving slabs and decking are swept daily. Special care is taken when the decking is wet.
Play equipment	See separate risk assessments for this	
Paddling pools	See separate risk assessment for this	
Sand pits	See separate risk assessments for this	
Out buildings (sheds)		
Tools, equipment	Cuts/puncturing skin/ poisoning objects falling onto children	½ of the garage is boarded off and has a gate which is locked, preventing children from getting into the part of the garage with tools etc. in.
Washing lines	strangulation	In the garden there is a rotary washing line. When in use it is fully erected, causing no danger to the children. When not in use, it is taken out of the ground (the hole covered with a plug) and locked away in the garage.
Plants	Poisoning sickness/ diarrhoea Skin rashes chocking	I have a list of poisonous plants in the risk assessment folder. I am careful about which plants I put in my garden, and none of the plants are harmful to children.
Animal faeces	Infection/ sickness/ diarrhoea	The garden is checked daily and every time before children go out to play in the garden to ensure that no animal faeces on present.
Private area of garden containing gravel and Swing chair	Being knocked over by it/hit by it Fall off it Swallowing gravel/chocking	The swing chair is situated in an area of the garden which the children are not allowed in. This is fences off and has a gate across it, so the children cannot get to it. Small children (from whom the gravel is a danger) are never left in the garden unsupervised.

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