

Child Accident Prevention



Warwickshire
Safeguarding

Introduction

In the UK, unintentional injury in and around the home is the leading cause of preventable death for children under 5. The most recently available data shows that 450,000 children attended A & E over a 5-year period due to injury.

Children who survive serious unintentional injury may need lengthy treatment or experience severe pain which may impact their academic, social, and psychological wellbeing.

Further Information

- 7-minute briefing - '[Safeguarding Children around Dogs](#)'
- [Warwickshire home safety check](#)
- [Child accident Prevention Trust](#)
- [Road safety advice for parents](#)
- [Guide to summer safety](#)

What are the risk factors?

Studies have indicated that unintentional injury is greatest in lower socioeconomic households who are disadvantaged or living in deprived circumstances, such as overcrowded living conditions or homelessness. Other risk factors include:

- Lack of safety equipment in home
- No access to a garden
- High level of household chaos
- Poor quality of childcare available
- Smoking
- Pets in home
- Child's ability and behaviour

Minute briefing

How can I reduce the risk of injury on holiday?

A few simple checks and precautions when on holiday can reduce the risk of child injury:

- Move furniture away from windows and tie blind cords out of reach.
- Children under 6 should not be sleeping on a top bunk
- Always supervise children on balconies and near pools / open water
- Keep medicines and cleaning products out of reach
- Check that smoke and carbon monoxide alarms work
- Co sleeping with babies and children is actively discouraged

What unintentional injury could a child incur in and out of the home?

They include, but are not limited to:

- Burns and scalding
- Dog bites
- Fire
- Choking, strangulation and suffocation
- Falls
- Poisoning
- Road accidents
- Drowning

What toys are dangerous to children?

- Toys with accessible button batteries – they can burn the child's food pipe
- Toys with strong magnets – they can rip through stomachs
- Toys with long cords are a strangulation risk
- Cheap electrical toys can catch fire or electrocute
- Toys with small parts are a choking risk to under 3's

How can I support?

Talking to parents and carers about the risk of injury to children in and out of the home could make a difference. Supportive resources to be shared with parents and carers are found [here*](#)

*(Resources translated into Urdu, Bengali, Panjabi, Polish and Arabic also available)