

Parents often ask our advice about how they can ensure their child is kept safe at home and in the community.

All children can be vulnerable sometimes, and as a parent it is only natural to worry about their safety.

We have consulted with our local Community Police Officer, PC Tracy Sadler, and looked online for the best advice. These tips have been published by the Northern Ireland Govt (NIDirect) and we feel they provide a great start for parents.

If you are worried, you can help to protect your young children and teens with these common-sense tips.

Here's some useful contacts:

Emergency Police / Ambulance / Fire Brigade Call 999

Non-Emergency Police Call 101

NHS Direct Call 111

or <https://www.nhs.uk>

Childline Call 0800 1111

or <https://www.childline.org.uk>

If you need any further advice, you can always speak to the Headteacher or contact the school. Details are below.

New End Primary School

Streatley Place

Hampstead

London NW3 1HU

Phone: 020 7431 0961

admin@newend.camden.sch.uk

KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE

at
Home

Safety tips in the home

- bunk and cabin beds are not suitable for children under six – if you do have bunk or cabin beds, teach your child never to play on the top bunk
- use safety glass in glass doors and windows or cover the panes with safety film – this will stop children being seriously cut if they trip or fall into the glass

Stairs and banisters

- when your baby starts crawling and until they are 24 months old, fit safety gates which comply to BS EN 1930:2011 to stop them climbing up or falling down stairs
- accidents happen when young children climb over or through banisters – if gaps are more than 6.5 cm (2.5 inches), cover the gaps with boards or safety netting
- board up any gaps in horizontal rails as they are easy to climb
- make sure that stairs are free from clutter like toys or clothes
- encourage older children not to play on stairs or run up and down them

Windows

- fit window locks or safety catches to stop windows opening more than 6.5 cm (2.5 inches) – this should stop children being able to squeeze through
- move furniture like beds and chairs away from windows to stop children climbing up and falling out

Balconies

- keep younger children away from balconies unless you are with them
- keep balcony doors locked when not in use
- to make sure children are safe, there should be a barrier at least 110 cm (43 inches) high around the edge of the balcony
- if the gaps between the upright railings are more than 6.5 cm (2.5 inches), board them up

Storing medicines

Keep medicines well out of reach and out of sight of young children. Put them in a high locked cupboard or cabinet.

Don't keep them:

- on your bedside table – your child can easily get into the bedroom without being seen
- in your handbag – this is a favourite place for toddlers to find tablets
- in the fridge – 'keep cool' usually means keep away from direct sunlight or warm places like radiators

If a medicine needs to be kept in the fridge it will say so on the box. If it does, keep it as high up and as hidden as possible.

Storing household chemicals and products

- keep all household chemicals and cleaning products - including detergent tablets for the dishwasher or washing machine - out of sight and in cupboards with child-resistant catches
- keep potentially harmful products high up and out of reach – never under the sink or on the floor by the toilet
- move products out of reach if you are called away while using them – for example if the phone rings while you are cleaning the toilet
- dispose of empty containers safely and out of your child's reach

Home blinds

- examine every blind in your home and if any blind has a cord or chain that is looped or could form a loop - make sure a safety device is used to keep the cord or chain securely tidied away out of their reach
- safety devices are available in the form of cord or chain tidies, P clips and cleats
- do not place your child's cot, bed, high chair or playpen near to a window blind
- do not put sofas, chairs, tables, shelves or bookcases near a window blind as children love to climb

Be mindful of blind cord safety in other places your children might visit and spend time like child minders, grandparents, friends and family, hotels and restaurants.

Leaving children at home alone

There is no legal age limit for leaving a child on their own, but it's an offence to leave a child alone if this puts them at risk. Parents can be prosecuted if they leave a child unsupervised and this could cause the child to suffer or become injured.

It is important to consider the child's maturity. It might be acceptable to leave a mature 12 year old alone, but not a 13 year old who isn't mature.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) advises that: *"children under the age of about 12 are rarely mature enough to be left alone for a long period of time. Children under the age of 16 should not be left alone overnight. Babies, toddlers and very young children should never be left alone."*