

Children are naturally curious and will play with objects that are sharp, dangerous and can trap their hands, feet or head. Knives, sharp utensils and other dangerous objects need to be kept up high and out of reach of young children. Folding furniture (prams, ironing boards etc.) can be a trapping hazard and all furniture should be checked for sharp corners and sharp protruding parts.

Furniture

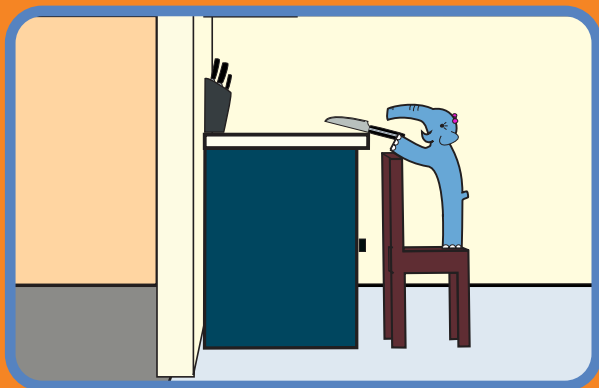
Highchairs and other furniture should be free from sharp edges or mechanisms that can cut or trap fingers. Always use the 5-point safety harness in the highchair and ensure the highchair is stable.

Beds, bunkbeds and cots should be placed away from windows and ceiling fans.

Keep fans out of reach of children and secured to avoid them tipping over or being pulled off a raised surface. Check that no little fingers can fit between the grate covering the blades to avoid cuts and lacerations if accidentally touched.

Ensure that all furniture, such as ironing boards, are stable and secure so that they are unable to tip over, pinch fingers or fold up suddenly and put them away immediately after use.

Check all furniture for sharp protruding objects and cover sharp corners.



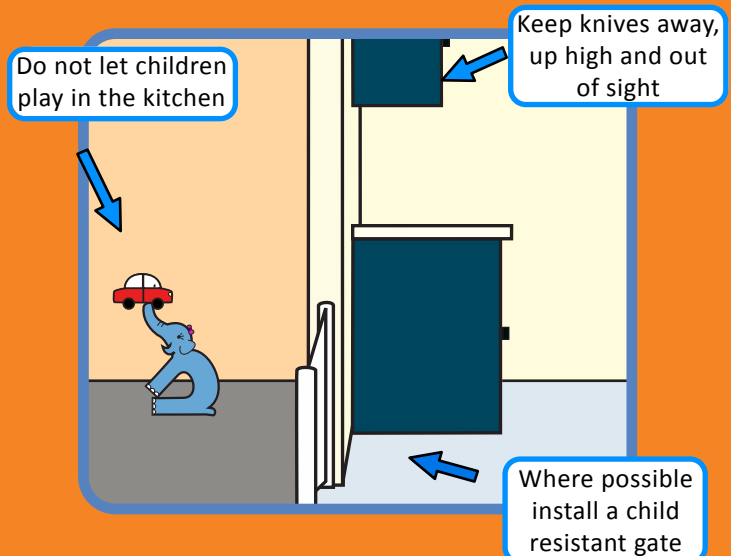
Prevention

Make sure you throw away chipped, cracked and damaged crockery and glasses straight away and clean up any breaks as soon as they happen.

Use high storage areas for items that pose the greatest danger to children (at least 1.5 metres off the ground). Use low storage areas (e.g. under the kitchen sink, drawers) for items that pose less of a risk to children. Drawers and cupboards that can be reached by children should be fitted with child-resistant latches to prevent finger jams and child-proof locks to stop children from accessing knives and other sharp objects if they are unable to be stored up high.

Use safety glass or safety film on low level glass, especially in children's bedrooms and lounge/family rooms. Keep chairs and other movable furniture away from windows; this is to prevent children from leaning on them and falling through windows.

Ensure that doors have suitable hinges and that they are able to be hinged back and kept open. Always check for children before closing doors to avoid slamming fingers.



Remove

Keep lighters, knives, scissors and other sharp and dangerous objects out of reach and do not let young children use scissors or knives unsupervised.

Lawn mowers, gardening equipment, power tools and other electrical equipment should be stored out of reach of children making sure dangerous tools and chemicals are locked up and away. Power tools and machinery should never be left unattended when switched on.

Workbenches should be kept clear with tools and chemicals returned to their storage area immediately after use. Ensure that children are always kept away from or actively supervised around work activities.

How Accidents can be Prevented

STEP 1 – Spot the hazards

Use this brochure and other Kidsafe resources to help you spot hazards in your home.

STEP 2 – Decide how to deal with the hazard.

When dealing with hazards remember that:

- 1. Removing the hazard** is the best option where possible (i.e. throw away chipped, cracked or broken crockery and glasses straight away)
- 2. Guard against the hazard** by installing and using gates and barriers (i.e. install a gate to the kitchen)
- 3. Lock or block the hazard** by using safety products to restrict or remove access to the hazards (i.e. use child-resistant latches on cupboards to prevent finger jams)
- 4. Actively supervise and keep children within arms reach** when there are hazards you are unable to remove, guard or block against (i.e. when power tools are being used)

Never depend on telling children not to do something.

STEP 3 – Make the changes

Once you have decided how to deal with the hazard, do it straight away. You will feel more relaxed and children will be able to play more safely.

Combine any barriers you put in place with adult supervision and education.

For more information

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