

Safety within the Home

Most parents and caregivers of children with SEN view safety as a significant concern regarding their home environment. For this reason, the below information was set up with the aim at being a starting point to consider safety aspects within the home. This list is not intended to be all inclusive and I do not endorse any individual product.

At the end of the handout is:

- Appendix A: List of companies mentioned in handout
- Appendix B: Additional reading regarding safety in the home

Please note that parents need to purchase these items themselves. You can consider charity funding with these purchases where appropriate and necessary. You can find further information about charity funding at:

www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/charitable-grants-for-ill-or-disabled-people

Fire Safety Awareness

It is important to consider fire safety in the home. You can book an Fire safety visit by your local fire officer on: www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/book-a-home-fire-safety-visit/. You can also book an appointment by free call 0800 028 4428 or email: smokealarms@london-fire.gov.uk. They can fit free smoke alarms, and specialist alarms for people with visual and hearing impairment.

Safe Proof your Home

The following is a list of safety equipment you might want to consider in your home:

Most home safety or baby safety kits have a variety of socket covers, cabinet locks and straps, corner protectors and anti-slap doorstops. Available from **Amazon**. **Safetots** sell these separately, but with a larger variety.

- Anti-slam doorstops (or under door stoppers): prevent little fingers from getting trapped in doors. Available from **Amazon** and **Safetots**.
- Socket covers: keep plug sockets safe from probing little fingers. Available from **Amazon** and **Safetots**.
- Corner protectors: cover the sharp corners of low tables/furniture and are particularly important when the child is first learning to walk e.g. when they are head height with the corners. Available from **Amazon** and **Safetots**.
- Drawer and cupboard catches: keep children away from precious, breakable and dangerous items in cupboards and drawers. Very handy with the kitchen and bathroom cupboards or even on the fridge door. Available from **Amazon** and **Safetots**.



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- Oven guard, hop guard & Stove knob locks: will protect children from hot pans and surfaces. Safetots Dual Purpose Stove Guard: Available from **Safetots**.
<https://www.safetots.co.uk/safetots-oven-door-guard.html>
<https://www.safetots.co.uk/safetots-dual-purpose-stove-guard.html>
www.safetots.co.uk/kidkusion-clearly-safe-stove-knobs-locks-pack-of-5.html



- Multi-purpose locks: suitable for a full range of cupboards, drawers and appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, microwaves etc. In the bathroom you can use this to secure the toilet seat closed. Variety available from **Fledglings** and **Safetots**.
<https://fledglings.org.uk/collections/care-safety/products/safety-multi-lock>
<https://fledglings.org.uk/collections/care-safety/products/handle-flex-lock>
<https://fledglings.org.uk/collections/care-safety/products/on-off-appliance-lock>
<https://fledglings.org.uk/collections/care-safety/products/cupboard-lock>
<https://www.safetots.co.uk/safety-essentials.html?p=3>
<https://www.safetots.co.uk/dreambaby-silver-microwave-and-oven-lock.html>



The Multi-purpose lock can be used as a fridge Fridge lock: A plastic device which deters children from opening a refrigerator. This is very helpful especially for families whose children have compulsive eating disorders to assist in managing behaviour around food. Sometimes using two locks at a time is necessary to deter entry.

Toilet lock: The multi-purpose lock can be used as a toilet seat lock, for children who enjoy playing with toilet water or flushing objects down the toilet.

- Magnetic locks: These magnetically operated childproof locks for cupboards and drawers are ultra secure and designed to be almost impossible for children (and adults) to open. The lock is totally concealed and will only open with the patented magnetic key. Drill/screw holes are only needed on the inside to fix the lock in place. It is possible to deactivate the locks temporarily e.g. when the child is not at home. Available from **Fledglings** and **Safetots**.
<https://fledglings.org.uk/collections/care-safety/products/whatlock-magnetic-locks>



- Jamm Doorstop: Doorstop, stops the door going to either direction.
<https://www.jammproducts.com/product-page/doorstop-dark-grey>



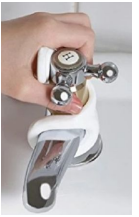
- A non-slip or slip resistant bath mat: will help prevent slipping and make the child feel safer during bath time. Available from **Amazon** and **Safetots**.
- Magiplug: Anti-flood sink stopper and bath flood prevention device. It has temperature sensitive colouring. Available from **Magiplug**.



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- Tap Strap: A simple device to help prevent young children from turning taps on. Suitable for both bath and basin but only suitable for crosshead style taps. Available from **Fledglings**. <https://fledglings.org.uk/collections/care-safety/products/tap-strap>



- Tap guard: Tappy Tap Guard is an ingenious invention for bath time that not only protects children from accidental head injuries and scalding from hot taps but is also a bath toy. Available from **Safetots**. <https://www.safetots.co.uk/quacks-innovation-tappy-tap-guard.html>



- Temperature of bath or shower water: If your child or young person tends to use too hot water, you can adjust your water temperature at the boiler so that it is not too hot coming from the tap.

- Safety gate: fitted in doorways or at top and bottom of stairs, to keep the child falling on the stairs. Child safety gates often come in standard sizes and heights. Available from **Amazon & Safetots**. <https://www.safetots.co.uk/stair-gates.html>

Pet gates can often be a ready-made solution when a gate is required which is higher than an average child gate. Examples on the market:

Dog Gates: Savic Barrier indoor (1070mm height x 750mm-840mm width) or Savic Barrier outdoor (950mm height x 840mm-1540mm width). Available from **Amazon**.

Child and Pet Gate: (1040mm height x 750mm-830mm width; plus, extensions to increase width to 1480mm).

Kiddyguard Accent Safety Gate: (1000mm height x 1000mm width) Available from the **Great Little Trading Company**.

- Stable Doors: Stable doors can be an alternative to stair/pet gates to prevent climbing. For maximum effect a bigger bottom section is most useful with no top section or the top section left open to enable noise to be heard. Available from Building suppliers.



- Bannister Sheets: These can prevent children from slipping between bannisters or dropping items through gaps. Plastic see through sheet 830mm height x 4500mm length. Available from **Safetots**. <https://www.safetots.co.uk/kidkusion-bannister-guard.html>

- Bed guard: can prevent the child from falling out in the night. They fold up neatly making them easy to take on holidays. Available from **Safetots**. <https://www.safetots.co.uk/bed-rails.html>

- Fireguards: allow you to attend to the fire while keeping children from burning themselves. Available from **Safetots**. <https://www.safetots.co.uk/safety-essentials/fire-guards.html>

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- Radiator covers: can be used to protect a child from a potential burn. Available from **Amazon** and Building suppliers.
- Glass safety film: is great for glazed doors and French windows. If the glass does get smashed, the film holds the broken pieces together. It can also be used on glass coffee tables. It is necessary to cut film to approximately 12mm wider and taller than each pane (excess is easily trimmed off after application). Available from **Amazon** such as www.amazon.co.uk/Safety-Security-Window-Shatter-Protection/dp/B00JC9CNO6
- Light switch/socket covers: These are plastic covers that fit over the entire electrical fittings of a light switch or socket. It is then impossible to switch on the light or electrical appliance without opening the cover. These covers therefore protect children who have a dangerous fascination with electricity. Available from **Fledglings, Safetots** and **Insight Security**.
<https://fledglings.org.uk/collections/care-safety/products/light-switch-socket-covers>



- Double door handles: To prevent access to certain rooms in the home without supervision sometimes installing an additional door handle at the top of the door can help. This ensures that the door will only open when both handles are operated at the same time. **Caution must always be taken** when preventing access to rooms or on external doors. Always seek advice from Fire Safety officers. Available from Building suppliers.
- Window safety restrictors: The window restrictors allow windows to be open; thus, room to ventilate without compromising the security. There are several different styles available, always check to ensure compatibility with your window type. Among other companies these are available from **Solon Security**. They also have quite a few different window locks available, for different windows.
www.solonsecurity.co.uk/hardware/window-security-safety/

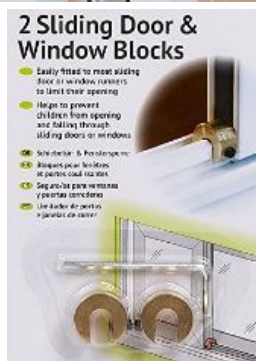
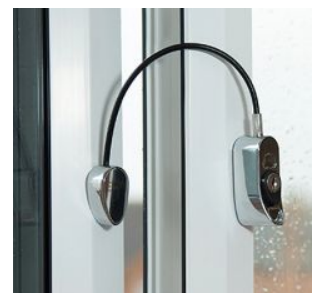
Dreambaby Breezz-lock sliding window restrictor: Available from **Safetots**.

<https://www.safetots.co.uk/dreambaby-breezz-lock-sliding-window-restrictor.html>

Regardless of the window type there should never be an instance where a vulnerable child or adult has access to a window opening greater than 4 inches (10cm).

- Sliding Door & Window Blocks: Easy to fit runners limit how far sliding windows and doors can open. Available from **Amazon**.

www.amazon.co.uk/Clippasafe-Sliding-Door-Window-Blocks/dp/B000TV11GC



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- Magnetic Door and Window alarm: easy to install alarm system for families concerned about a child who wanders. Fixed to the edge of the window or door with an adhesive pad and the magnetic bar is attached to the window or door frame. Breaking the connection triggers a loud (85 decibel) sound. Available from **Fledglings**.

<https://fledglings.org.uk/collections/care-safety/products/magnetic-door-window-alarm>



- Door Contact Sensors with Pager Alert: These are sensors which when installed onto a door and programmed to a pager, alert the carer that a door has been opened. They can either be screwed or velcroed into place. Available from **Easylink UK** [Universal Door Contact Sensor, with either a Medpage pager (Tone and vibration alert only) or with a Message Alert Pager (Tone, vibration and message alert; which is useful if more than one door is alarmed.)] www.easylinkuk.co.uk/product/product-door-window-alarms

- Cable tidy: keep cable clutter together and away from child harm. Available from **Safetots**.

<https://www.safetots.co.uk/safetots-cable-tidy-unit-white.html>

<https://www.safetots.co.uk/safetots-cable-tidy-wrap-blue.html>



- Anti-tip TV strap: prevent flat screen televisions from tipping over. Available from **Safetots**.

<https://www.safetots.co.uk/babydan-anti-tip-tv-strap-pack-of-4.html>



- Blind cord Safety: If you have blinds in your home, it is important to look at the following short blind cord safety video: <https://youtu.be/C6bc-Y020cs> and look at the following leaflet:

www.rospa.com/rospaweb/docs/advice-services/home-safety/blind-cord-safety.pdf

As mentioned in the video and leaflet, you can make all blinds safe by using:

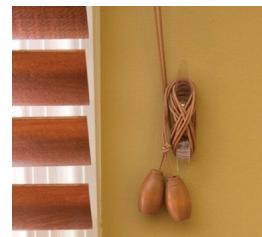
Chain Break connector: Available from **Amazon**.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=Blind+Cord+safety&ref=nb_sb_noss_2

Cord & Chain tidies and tensioners: Available from **Amazon**.

Cleat: Blind Cord Wraps: to keep harmful lengths of cords out of reach of children to avoid strangulation and other injuries. Available from **Amazon** and **Safetots**.

www.safetots.co.uk/dreambaby-blind-cord-wraps-transparent-pack-of-4.html



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- Pot soil guard: prevent your child getting at the soil in pot plants. Various sizes. Available from **Safetots**.

<https://www.safetots.co.uk/safetots-plant-pot-soil-guard-round-mini.html>



- Gro-clock: Night light with timing sensor to encourage going to sleep, helping little ones to stay in bed asleep until it's the right time to get up and begin the day. Available from **Tomme Tippee**. <https://www.tommeetippee.com/en-gb/shop/sleep-aids>
- Night light plug ins: Provide light in the room or corridor, without disturbing others sleep. Especially helpful in a child's bedroom. Available from **Amazon**.



- Black out Blinds: Banish the sunlight when you need to, especially in your child's bedroom in the summer. Available from **Blinds2go**.

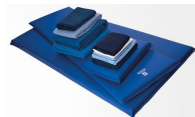
https://www.blinds-2go.co.uk/roller_blinds.asp

- Gro Anywhere Blackout Blind: 1350mm height x 2000mm width sucker fixing with storage bag. Available from **Tomme Tippee**.

<https://www.tommeetippee.com/en-gb/shop/sleep-aids>



- Fast Asleep: A range of fire resistant and vandal proof bedding. Including mattresses, pillows and blankets. Available from **Fasta Sleep**.



- Safety beds and sleep solutions: These foam block beds have sealed seams and are waterproof. Available from **Sensory Developments**.



www.sensorydevelopments.co.uk/sensory-developments/safety-beds-sleep-solutions/

- Safe spaces: Secure and safe room within a room. Available from **Safespaces**.



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- Safe & sound pods: Secure and safe room within a room. Available from **Creative Care Ltd.**



- Safe sleep beds and cots: Available from **Kinderkey.**

<https://www.kinderkey.co.uk/products/safe-sleeping/>

- Tough Furniture: attractive, yet very strong furniture. TV's in protective cabinets; and anti-ligature mirrors. Available from **Tough Furniture** and **Pineapple Furniture.**

- Acrylic mirrors: Manufacturer of fun and imaginatively shaped acrylic safety mirrors. Available from **Mungai mirrors.**



- Shock absorbent safety cushioning: For walls, floors and corners. Available from **Ezy Safeguard.**

- Special room padding: If you want to consider a room with soft padded walls such as a soft play area or sensory equipment in a sensory room, you want to consider companies such as **Sensory Developments** or **Rompa.**

<http://www.sensorydevelopments.co.uk/sensory-developments/softplay/>
<https://www.rompa.com/soft-play.html>

- Outside Security: Available from **Insight-security.** Various products such as:

Roller Barrier: Non aggressive anti Climb Barrier spinners

<https://www.insight-security.com/roller-barrier-non-aggressive-anti-climb-spinners>

Door Finger Protectors Strips: www.insight-security.com/finger-protector-hinge-cover-strip

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further advice or have questions.

Kind regards,

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Credit: handout written in conjunction with Fiona Peters, Waltham Forest Social Services Occupational Therapist.

Appendix A

Supplier list

The following suppliers were mentioned above:

- Amazon www.amazon.co.uk
- Blinds2GO www.blinds-2go.co.uk Tel: 0800 862 0464
Products: Variety of blinds and curtains; look out for the black out blinds and curtains
- Creative Care Ltd. <http://www.creativecareltd.com/> Tel: 07585 667 248
Products: Safety room within a room. Travel options available.
- Easylink UK www.easylinkuk.co.uk Tel: 01536 264 869
Products: Quality care solutions e.g. alarms, pagers, GPS tracker watches etc.
- Ezy Safeguard www.safetycushioning.co.uk Tel: 01386 861069
Products: Provides shock absorbing safety cushioning for preventing injury when persons fall, slide, stumble and collide
- Fasta Sleep www.fastasleep.co.uk Tel: 028 9442 8686
Products: Waterproof and Fire-resistant bedding
- Fledglings www.fledglings.org.uk Tel: 0203 319 9772
Products: Variety of safety and other SEN products
- Insight Security www.insight-security.com Tel: 01273 475 500
Products: Security products
- Jamm Products www.jammproducts.com Tel: 01736 793442
Products: Door stops
- Kinderkey <https://www.kinderkey.co.uk/> Tel: 01978 820714
Products: Safe sleep beds and cots
- Magiplug www.magiplug.com Tel: 01322 613154
Product: Anti-flood device

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Further reading:

- Autism Speaks: The safety project has a wealth of information.

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/autism-safety-project>

- Autism Speaks: A program developed for teenagers & young adults about safety in the home called Safe Signals. The guide has practical visuals and safety teaching instructions to be used both at home and school.

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/safety-home>

https://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/safe_signals_project.pdf

https://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/english_clings.pdf

- Funding for Home Adaptations Advice from NAS: (scroll down to nearer to end of article)

www.autism.org.uk/about/family-life/in-the-home/environment.aspx#funding

- American Autism Society article about safety in the home:

www.autism-society.org/living-with-autism/how-the-autism-society-can-help/safe-and-sound/safety-in-the-home/

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