

Home Audit Tool

Use this home audit tool alongside the home safety recommendations document.

Consider why your child is displaying unsafe behaviours in the home? Think about the behaviours through your child’s eyes and how you can ensure their safety without reducing any enjoyment in their day. For example, if your child is climbing up at the window to watch the traffic, **is there a safe way for them to do this?**

General

	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you ensure the right level of supervision is provided to your child? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the radiators the right temperature to reduce risk of burning? Are you able to access and turn down the thermostat? • Are radiators in the house sufficiently covered? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you ensure tablecloths are removed when not in use? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What flooring surfaces are in the house? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you ensure e-cigarettes/vapes/alcohol/ prescribed medication locked away? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is your child aware of where they can go in the home unsupervised? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are your electrical sockets overloaded? • Do you leave electrical items plugged in? • Where are the sockets located in the home/rooms? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have finger protectors on your doors? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you had a free fire service check? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you considered the safety of your pet around your child? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider how light, noise, smells, and movement could impact your child’s behaviour and how you can best support this. 	

Home Audit Tool

Furniture

	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you ensured furniture is not located where climbing is a risk? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you secured cabinets and free-standing furniture to the wall to ensure your child can't pull this over? • Are sharp corners protected? 	

Windows

	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do the windows in the house open? • Do they have window restrictors? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is your child able to climb on windowsills? What do you do to prevent this? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have blind/curtain cords secured? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are your windows locked and keys kept out of reach? 	

Hallway

Front Door	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where is the lock located on the door? Is this out of child's reach? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are keys stored? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you ensure your child can't get out of the house? 	

Stairs

	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the home have stairs? • Can the child climb over the banister? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have stair gates fitted? 	

Home Audit Tool

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are your stairs kept clear from clutter to prevent trips and falls? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are your stairs well lit? 	

Kitchen

Cupboards	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do cupboards and drawers have locks to prevent children accessing sharp objects, cleaning products and harmful chemicals? • Could these be stored elsewhere or out of reach? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can unsafe items be relocated or can close supervision always be provided in the kitchen? 	
Oven	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What type of oven is available in the kitchen? • Can the oven be isolated when not in use? • Can the child reach the oven knobs? If so, can these be covered? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the child supervised whilst cooking? • Do you ensure the pans are on the furthest away ring to reduce risk? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you ensure child is supervised and working within their abilities? 	
Worktops	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is your child able to climb on the kitchen worktop? • Are objects, appliances and wires on the worktop against the back wall of the kitchen to avoid children reaching and pulling down? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you ensure all appliances are turned off when not in use? • Can you switch appliances to cordless? 	
Sink	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of taps are available in the kitchen? 	

Home Audit Tool

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can your child access the taps? • Is there a risk of overflow or scalding? • Can the taps be isolated? 	
Washing Machine/ Tumble Drier/ Dishwasher	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does your washing machine have a lock? • Do you ensure these appliances are turned off when not in use? 	

Living Room

	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the living room have a fire? • Is this suitably covered/isolated? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have rugs/trip hazards on the floor? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have a TV in the living room? • Have you secured the TV? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where is furniture positioned? Is this away from the window to reduce climbing? 	

Bedrooms

	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are all appliances stored away safely and out of reach of children, e.g. straighteners and hair dryer? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is all furniture away from the window to prevent climbing? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are light switches a wall switch rather than a pull cord? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What type of ceiling light is in the bedroom? • Do these reduce the risk of swinging? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have blind/curtain cords secured? 	

Home Audit Tool

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are all unsafe toys out of reach when child is not supervised? • Are toys stored safely? • Are toys available suitable for your child's age and development? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you following safe sleep strategies? • Does the bed/cot meet your child's needs and development? 	

Bathroom

	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are all unsafe products locked away or out of the child's reach e.g. cleaning products, razors, medication, perfumes etc. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have a bath/shower or both? • Do you use a non-slip bath mat? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the child reach the taps? • Can these be turned off or tap guards be used to ensure safety? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you ensure all water is removed from the bath after use? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you ensure there is adequate amount of toilet roll available? To prevent children from blocking sink, bath, toilet. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is your child able to lock the bathroom door? • Are you able to unlock the bathroom door from the outside? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you ensure steps and stools are stored away out of your child's reach when not in use? 	

Garden/Outside

	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you supervise your child appropriately when outside? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is your garden/outdoor space secured? 	

Home Audit Tool

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you prevent your child from climbing the fence/gate/wall? • Is all garden furniture safe and in a place that reduces risk of climbing? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does your child have sufficient outdoor toys? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are any ponds/ hot tubs securely covered? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you ensure all your gardening equipment is safely stored? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you keep your child safe on outdoor steps? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you prevent your child from putting non-food items in their mouth? 	

What is working well?	What do you need to change?

Action Plan

General strategies and resources to consider when forming an action plan:

- Home safety recommendations - <https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/family-help/health/childrens-specialist-physical-health-services/safety-within-home-occupations>
- Clippasafe - <https://www.clippasafe.co.uk/>
- Children & Family Health Devon Home Safety Strategies - <https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/occupational-therapy/home-safety/>
- Challenging Behaviour Foundation - <https://www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk/>