

# How safe is your home?

Imagine you are taking a walk round somebody's home. It's a home where a very busy family live and they say that they just don't have time to make sure it's safe for their children... As you walk around this home take time to spot the hazards and help to make this a much safer place for everyone to live.

Put a tick next to all those things you think are hazards. There may be more than one answer for each area of the house. Also you may think of some other hazards that aren't listed.

## 1. In the kitchen, look at the cooker. What hazards might you find?

- A: Pan handles turned outwards
- B: An elephant magnet from Auntie Ethel
- C: Hot oven doors

## 2. Look at the kitchen table. What hazards might you find?

- A: A cup of hot coffee standing on the edge of the table
- B: A magazine with pictures of a celebrity in their underwear
- C: A sharp bread knife

## 3. Which of the following hazards might you find in the bathroom?

- A: Bath being filled
- B: Bleach and cleaning products left by the toilet
- C: A razor left lying around

## 4. Now go into the bedroom – which of the following hazards might you find?

- A: A candle left burning with no-one around
- B: Hair straighteners hanging over the door handle
- C: A painting of a sunset and fluffy sheep

## Answers:

1. A – Yes. These are easily pulled over by little hands and a boiling pan can cause horrific burns  
 B – Magnets aren't likely to do harm – so long as they aren't small enough for a young child to put into their mouth  
 C – Yes. Some oven doors get extremely hot and can burn a young child's skin
2. A – Yes. Little fingers can easily pull this down. A child's skin is much thinner than an adult's and hot drinks can badly scald a child up to 15 minutes after they are made.  
 B – This may not be ideal for a young child's eyes but it's not likely to cause an accident.  
 C – Yes. Sharp things are definitely a danger to young children and need to be kept somewhere a child can't find them.
3. A – Yes. Bath being filled with hot water is a possible hazard. Children can climb or fall in and then not be able to get out quickly. Always put cold in first and top up with hot.  
 B – Yes. Children can be poisoned from drinking bleach and cleaning products, so keep these well out of reach, and try to buy cleaning products which contain a bittering agent like Bitrex®.  
 C – Yes. Keep all sharp things well out of the reach of young children.
4. A – Yes. Candles are a major cause of house fires, and you should never leave a candle lit when you are not around to watch it.  
 B – Yes. You can't tell from looking whether they are hot or not. Hair straighteners can cause very serious burns for up to 8 minutes after they are used, so never leave them lying around.  
 C No. Although you might want to check your pictures every now and then to make sure the string hasn't rotted.