

## Water Safety

This leaflet provides advice on how you can help keep your child with challenging behaviour safe around water. The Children's Occupational Therapy Service offers a range of leaflets with advice on how to keep your child safe - call 020 8274 6854 for further information.

A child with challenging behaviour may really enjoy water but may use water inappropriately in the home, causing flooding and damage to the property. See below for ideas to minimise this risk.

### General considerations

- Ensure that your child has adequate access to drinking water throughout the day, for example in the form of bottled water.
- Make sure that you do not stop your child from getting to the toilet when necessary.

### Examples of possible solutions:

- Inflatable tap covers.
- Surestop water switch - a control for your water supply.
- Magiplug for sink or bath – the pressure of the water above opens the plug when the sink or bath is full. These are available from various companies including Nottingham Rehab Supplies.
- Automatic operated taps.
- Anti-vandalism taps.
- Adjust the water temperature to prevent water reaching scalding temperatures.
- Thermostatic locks on taps to prevent water reaching scalding temperatures.
- Toilet cistern boxed in behind a wall or boxing.
- Lock for toilet seat.
- Locks on the outside of bathroom doors.
- Slide bolt fitted high up on the outside of the bathroom door that the child cannot reach.
- Where towel and shower curtain rails are pulled off the wall, magnetic versions of rails are available commercially where the rail pulls apart from the brackets under pressure and can be easily reattached. These are also available for wardrobe rails, curtain rails and shower curtain rails.
- Sometimes when using the bath, children splash a significant amount of water due to the challenging behaviour. This can result in damage to the bathroom flooring. Where the issue cannot be resolved with behavioural input, you may need to change the bathroom flooring to one that creates a watertight seal and is safe to use in wet areas (for

example Altro Marine 20 flooring), with a gully installed to drain excess water.

- Polycarbonate/safety mirrors are available where there is a risk of your child breaking mirrors.

### Examples of suppliers

- **Tap covers:** Surestop, [www.surestop.co.uk](http://www.surestop.co.uk) 0845 643 1800
- **Magiplug:** Nottingham Rehab Supplies (NRS), [www.nrs-uk.co.uk](http://www.nrs-uk.co.uk) 0845 120 4522
- **Magnetic rails:** Primera Ltd. [www.primeralife.co.uk](http://www.primeralife.co.uk) 0870 300 1810  
Colourways. [www.colourwaysltd.com](http://www.colourwaysltd.com) 01489 580 978
- **Polycarbonate / Safety mirrors:** Tough Furniture. [www.toughfurniture.com](http://www.toughfurniture.com) 01588 674 340
- **Safety bathroom flooring:** Altro Flooring. [www.altro.com](http://www.altro.com) 01462 489 516
- **Croydon Equipment Solutions Ltd:** You can receive specialist help and advice as well as view items at the equipment shop, open Monday to Friday, 9am to 4.45pm, at 28 Boulogne Road, Croydon, CR0 2QT. Tel: 020 8664 8860.
- **Kid Rapt** – child safety, [www.childsafety.co.uk](http://www.childsafety.co.uk)
- **Childalert** – child safety, [www.childalert.co.uk](http://www.childalert.co.uk)
- **Fledglings** – advice and information for children with special needs. [www.fledglings.org.uk](http://www.fledglings.org.uk) 0845 458 1124

The lists of companies provided in these information leaflets are not approved lists. Croydon Council and Croydon Health Services accept no liability with regard to any purchases from the companies listed. The list of companies provided is not exhaustive.

### Your questions and comments:

PALS offers assistance, advice and support for patients and their families. The PALS office is open to callers from 9am to 3.30pm, Monday to Friday. Telephone number 020 8401 3210.