

Gas, Radiators and Exposed Pipes Safety

This leaflet provides advice on how you can help keep your child with challenging behaviour safe around gas, radiators and exposed pipes. 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.

Children with challenging behaviour may have a reduced awareness of danger. They may be at risk of burns or injuries from sharp corners. The family may be exposed to noise when radiators and pipes are hit. If pipes are banged continuously over a period of time the joints can become loose and hot water may start to leak. Gas switches need to be secure from children who may turn on the gas, putting the family at risk.

General considerations

When employing a tradesman for gas works, it is advisable to use a qualified gas fitter who is registered on the Gas Safe Register. www.gassaferegister.co.uk 0800 408 5500

Examples of possible solutions

Radiators:

- Rearrange furniture to reduce access to the radiator.
- Radiator covers and guards can be purchased. These are made from padded material that protects children from the heat of the radiator and from sharp edges.
- Radiators can be boxed in with purpose made radiator covers (metal or wooden) to reduce the danger of burns and to limit the amount of noise if they are hit.
- Low surface temperature radiators are available to replace standard radiators.

Water Pipes and Cisterns:

- Water pipes can be boxed in by a reliable carpenter or plumber.
- Toilet cisterns can be concealed to prevent your child from opening and accessing the cistern water. This can help to hide the toilet pipes.

Gas:

- Gas isolation switches enable you to switch off the gas with a key. This stops the flow of gas through to the appliance, for example the cooker or fire when not in use.
- Ensure that the gas switches are out of reach of your child or locked away.

Fire Guards:

- Fire guards can be fitted wherever there is an open fire. Fireplace guards are simple to fit and come in a variety of sizes to fit most fireplaces.

Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms:

- These provide vital early warning and extra time to escape in the event of a fire or gas leaking. Ensure that the alarms and batteries are in working order on a regular basis.

Examples of suppliers

General Child Safety:

- **Safetots** - child safety www.safetots.co.uk 01438 728 888
- **Kid Rapt** - child safety www.childsafety.co.uk 01582 493 382
- **Access Ability Centre**, 28 Boulogne Road, Croydon 020 8664 8860

Plumbing Stores:

- Stores such as Argos, Homebase, Wickes, B&Q.
- **Screwfix** www.screwfix.com 0500 414 141

Radiator Covers:

- **Coverad** www.coverad.co.uk 01256 844 685
- **Jtech Services** www.jtechservices.co.uk 01952 404 352
- **Radshield** www.radshield.org.uk 01760 724 444
- **Yorkshire Radiator Covers** www.yorkshireradiatorcovers.co.uk 01427 875 637
- **Premier Radiator Cabinets** www.premierradiatorcovers.co.uk 0151 933 0070
- **Guardsman Products** www.radiator-guards.co.uk 01782 717 818

London Fire Brigade offers free home fire safety visits. You can contact them to request fire safety advice or a home visit, and they may fit free smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

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.

