

Window Safety



This leaflet provides advice on how you can help keep your child with disabilities safe around windows.

This leaflet was compiled by the Hammersmith and Fulham Disabled Children's Team Occupational Therapists following a collaborative parent workshop with the Queensmill Trust Occupational Therapy team. The leaflet is shared here with their permission and is relevant to families living in any local authority unless specified with a *.

Children with disabilities may have little awareness of danger, and measures may need to be taken to prevent them from breaking glass or jumping or falling from windows.

General Considerations:

- Before fitting any extra locks, fire safety should be taken into consideration. The Fire Service is able to carry out a free home safety check (www.london-fire.gov.uk).
- In Hammersmith & Fulham, the Safer Homes Scheme* can provide a home safety check if you have a child with a disability (www.creightonhouse.org/safer-homes-children)
- It is advisable to keep the area below windows clear of furniture to prevent your child from climbing.
- Windows may need to be kept locked while your child is in the room. When your child is out of the room the windows can be opened for air circulation.
- Benefits such as DLA are provided to meet additional costs of a person with a disability and can be used to fund some safety items available on the high street.
- When buying equipment for people with a disability, it should be VAT exempt.
- You should check your rental contract to ensure you are not breaching it and request landlord permission if necessary.
- Consider putting "Stop" signs on doors if appropriate and discuss using social stories / symbols and other techniques with child's school to teach child appropriate alternative behaviours.

Examples of Possible Solutions:

- Glass safety film fitted on window.
- Interior window protection frame with lockable polycarbonate door, for example supplied by Tough Furniture.
- Replacing ordinary glass with safety glass or makrolon (polycarbonate) sheets.
- Sliding window and door blocker, for example Clippasafe.
- Window restrictors and window locks.
- An alarm can be fitted to alert you if your child opens the window.
- For children with challenging behaviour who have a tendency to pull on curtain rails, curtains can be held up with Velcro attachments. Alternative curtain rails are available that magnetically attach so can easily be reattached.
- If it is not possible to keep curtains in place, frosted, plastic, adhesive window covering to give privacy whilst letting in light area available.

This could also be used if child is fixated with window and this is causing a safety risk (eg making them hit the window).

- Shutters or security grills on the outside of the windows may be needed if other options have failed.

Examples of Suppliers:

Toughened safety glass:

- White Windows, www.whitewindows.co.uk 01983 523 552

Sliding window and door blocker:

- Clippasafe, www.clippasafe.co.uk 0115 921 1899

Window restrictors:

- Child Alert, www.childalert.co.uk info@childalert.co.uk
- Jackloc Company Ltd, www.jackloc.com 01530 249 034
- UPVC Hardware, www.upvc-hardware.co.uk 01422 343 831
- Locks on Line, www.locksonline.co.uk 0845 230 0201
- Primera Life, www.primeralife.co.uk 0870 300 1810
- Avenue Supplies, www.avenuesupplies.co.uk 020 8997 5071
- Kid Rapt, www.childsafety.co.uk 01582 493 382
- DIY stores

Window Alarms:

- Maplin, www.maplin.co.uk 020 8686 6081
- Frequency Precision, www.frequencyprecision.com 01837 810 590
- Ultra Secure Direct, <https://www.ultrasecuredirect.com>

Curtains and rails:

- Colourways Ltd, www.colourwaysltd.com 01489 580 978
- Hallis Hudson, www.hallishudson.com 01772 202 202
- Primera Life, www.primeralife.co.uk 0870 300 1810

Window Film

- The Window Film Company, www.windowfilm.co.uk/residential/safety

Security Grills:

- Building contractors, security firms, welding companies.

The lists of companies provided in these information leaflets are not approved lists. Hammersmith & Fulham Children & Family Services accept no liability with regard to any purchases from the companies listed. The list of companies provided is not exhaustive.

**relevant to Hammersmith and Fulham residents only*