

# Home accident prevention

**Accidents are the leading cause of death among children aged between one and five years.**

**Young children are usually inquisitive and adventurous and they do not know immediately whether a situation or an object is safe or dangerous. Five key issues for children under five:**

## **I might fall**

- Teach me to take care on the stairs.
- Keep floor space free of clutter.
- Teach me not to play near windows, balconies or climb on furniture or worktops.
- Don't put my bed near a window.

## **I might get burnt or scalded**

- Use your elbow to test my bath water and always add cold water first.
- Fit fire guards to all fires and heaters.
- Teach me not to touch matches
- Keep hot drinks, pots, kettles and hair straighteners out of my reach.

## **I might get strangled, choke or suffocate**

- Think blind cord safety! Secure looped cords or chains on blinds with safety aids.
- Cut food up in small, narrow strips or quarters (not round pieces). Teach me not to run with food in my mouth.
- Keep plastic bags, coins, buttons, batteries and small items out of reach.

## **I might get poisoned**

- Keep medicines, cleaning products, liquid tabs and batteries out of reach and in a locked cupboard.

- Fit carbon monoxide alarms in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Ventilate home and ensure installation and maintenance of fuel burning appliances are carried out by a qualified professional.

## **I might drown**

- Don't leave me alone in the bath with an older sibling or unsupervised during water activities.
- A young child can drown silently in less than five centimetres (two inches) of water.

For further information visit [www.rospe.com/home-safety](http://www.rospe.com/home-safety) or [www.capt.org.uk/safety-advice](http://www.capt.org.uk/safety-advice)  
You can download a free first aid app from [www.redcross.org.uk/firstaid](http://www.redcross.org.uk/firstaid)