



Local Safeguarding
Children Partnership

Hammersmith & Fulham

H&F LSCP Safety Briefing: Window Safety



Preventing falls from open windows

If you have windows that are reachable by young children, think of them as a **risk**



With the arrival of better weather, windows are likely to be left open in the hope of catching a breeze – and this may put children at risk if safety measures aren't put in place.

Every year according to the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) more than 4,000 children under 15 are injured from falling out of windows.

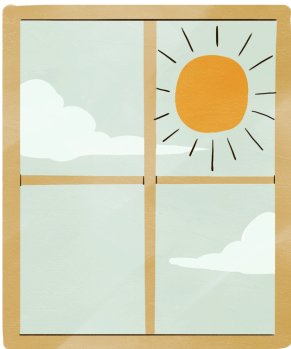
Injuries sustained can range from cuts and bruises, fractures, broken limbs and death depending on the height of the fall. Infants and toddlers are especially vulnerable, with those aged 5 and under being most at risk.

Top Safety Tips:

**These tips apply to everyone, whether you own your own property, live in private rented accommodation, Housing Association or Council housing*

- Ensure children are always supervised by an adult in the home.
- Arrange to have all window catches, locks or restrictors to stop your windows opening too wide (If you opt for a lock, keep the keys somewhere you can easily find them, in case there's a fire and you need to get out).
- Keep young children away from balconies unless they are supervised. Keep balcony doors locked when not in use

- Where possible, move furniture away from windows to make it harder for small children to climb up, especially in their bedrooms.
- Small children are curious and want to see what's happening outside but have no real understanding of danger. Teach children where not to climb.
- Immediately organise a repair of any broken window, balcony or door catches or if in rented accommodation immediately report it to your housing provider or landlord so they can be repaired
- Be vigilant about window and balcony safety when you visit other homes
- Avoid putting toys or other objects, which can entice children, near to window openings. These can also be used as a means to climb up.
- This advice applies to all windows in the home, including bedrooms and bathrooms - even if you live on the ground floor children can still sustain injuries falling out of a window.



***If you own your own home, you will need to arrange to have safety equipment fitted yourself, or if you are in rented property – please check with your landlord or housing provider.**

·If you have children in your home, please check if your windows require guards or safety glass. If your windows are low down, you may require a guard.

·Seek advice regarding how far to restrict the opening of your windows, to prevent children's heads becoming stuck.

·Please check if all frames, catches, hinges, sashes and safety devices are in good order and if not – please arrange for them to be repaired by a reputable service, or by your housing provider.

Further information:

[Housing | London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham \(lbhf.gov.uk\)](https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/housing)

[Falls | Child Accident Prevention Trust \(capt.org.uk\)](https://www.capt.org.uk)

[Safety of the built environment - RoSPA](#)

[The Family Hub | London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham \(lbhf.gov.uk\)](https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/the-family-hub)