

Common Environmental Safety Hazards in Birth to Three Classrooms

Remember no list can capture every hazard or potential hazard!

1. Teething necklaces
2. Lifting a child by their arms
3. Unprotected electrical outlets
4. Strings or cords accessible to children
5. Substances labeled "Keep out of reach of children" not locked away
6. Rugs or mats that have foot-catching edges or that slide on the floor
7. Doors left open so children have access to closets, exits, etc
8. Peeling paint
9. Protruding nails or screws
10. Splintering woodwork
11. Furniture that is unstable to the point of collapse
12. A shelf that will tip over if a child pulls up on it
13. Bean bag chairs used with infants
14. Inappropriate size and design of equipment (including outdoor play equipment) for the intended users
15. Tall furniture that interferes with supervision
16. Lack of a proper protective surface around climbing equipment
17. Furniture placed in a manner that encourages children to run, causing collisions or falls
18. Bleach, cleaning solution or disinfecting solution used where children can inhale it
19. Lack of 6 inch raised edge on diapering table
20. Not following Safe Sleep rules and program's Safe Sleep Policy
21. Microwave ovens used to heat bottles or baby food
22. Staples or push pins used on displays in children's reach
23. Unlocked storage cupboards
24. Purses, backpacks or teachers' personal belongings not locked away
25. Plastic bags in reach of children
26. Small objects that fit into choke-test tube
27. Large or heavier toys stores on top of shelves that can be pulled down

28. Unsafe art or sensory materials:

Below is a non exhaustive list of common unsafe art items

- Pom Poms
- Googly eyes
- Pipe cleaners
- Glitter or Glitter glue/paint
- Cotton balls
- Lids from markers, scented markers (contain chemicals)
- Stickers (foam or other types)
- Small crayon or chalk pieces
- Glue stick caps or glue sticks for children under 3yrs.
- Beads
- Food Items

29. Children's backpacks or diaper bags containing unsafe materials

30. Any materials made of foam

31. Walkers that a child can move across the floor

32. **Unsupervised access** to any container of water (toilet, water play)

<https://www.virtuallabschool.org/infant-toddler/safe-environments>