

# SAFETY AT HOME

Safety at Home is normally taken for granted. But in our homes there are many small things which can be dangerous for children and adults alike. These same dangers present themselves during sleepovers and indoor camps, too. Here are some items which you may discuss with your cubs.

## **Kitchen:**

- o Knives or other sharp utensils.
- o Matches lying about.
- o Hot pots and pans.
- o Never try to put a pan fire out by water
- o Protruding handles (pans on the cooker with the handles sticking out).
- o Unattended pans, especially those filled with oil or boiling water.
- o Curtains or dish-cloths too close to the flames.
- o Boiling liquids.
- o Animals in the kitchen.
- o Detergent containers.
- o Tablecloths hanging off the tables.
- o Broken glass or spills should be cleared away as soon as possible. First they should be wrapped in newspapers, then thrown in the bin.

## **Bathroom:**

- o Young children can drown in a bath.
- o People can be scalded by hot water.
- o Use of anti-slip mats in bath or shower are recommended.
- o Razor-blades and scissors left lying about can be dangerous, especially for younger children.
- o Medicines should be kept in a locked cupboard. They should be stored in child-resistant containers. Unwanted medicines should be disposed of appropriately. Special containers can be collected from Civic Amenity sites. You can put unwanted medicines and syringes in these containers and drop them off again at a CA site.
- o Detergents, bleaches, acids, lotions, perfumes etc. should be clearly marked and kept out of reach and sight.
- o Leave poisonous substances in original containers. Never store them in old soft-drink bottles as children may be misled by such containers.
- o Water spills should be mopped up as soon as possible.
- o No electric appliances should be used in a bathroom, to avoid shocks.



## Gardens & Garages:

- o Put garden tools away.
- o Be careful when lighting fires or BBQ's in a garden.
- o Certain weed-killers and fertilizers, pool purifiers, paint and paint strippers are all potentially poisonous substances. If spilled they can cause chemical burns. If swallowed they may cause poisoning.
- o Gates leading to streets should be kept closed and locked.
- o Certain plants are poisonous.
- o Other people's animals may not be friendly to strangers.
- o In case of water leakage, turn off the main switch.

*Note: cubs are to learn where the main switch is situated at home in case of emergency.*

## Electricity:

- o Never handle plugs or switches with wet hands.
- o Never use appliances with frayed wires.
- o Place a guard in front of heaters, fan blades or open fire places.
- o Block unused sockets with plain three pin.
- o Do not let wire flex run under carpets or where it may trip somebody.
- o Disconnect electrical appliances when not in use.
- o Before changing a bulb, switch off the mains.
- o Do not use defective appliances. Have them checked by a competent electrician.
- o Never touch a person who is in contact with the electrical current. You risk an electrical shock. Break the contact by switching off the current.



## Gas Leaks:

- o If gas is smelled, all windows must be opened at once.
- o No switches or electrical devices are to be turned on or off.
- o Never light fire such as a match stick or a cooker.
- o Close the gas cylinder.

## Suggestion:

As a test, you can prepare some "dangers" in your HQ. The Cubs go in the different rooms and try to identify as many problems as possible, and how they can be solved. At the end, see what everyone came up with, and discuss with them things they may have missed. The below activity can be used.



# ACTIVITY FACT SHEET



**Activity:** Safety inspection of HQ



**Objective:** Test if Cubs can identify dangers in a 'home'



**Time:** 30 minutes



**Outline:** At HQ, prepare the kitchen, bathroom, office and garden with several dangers. Photograph them.

It's inspection day and the cubs are the nosey inspectors! Provide each Cub a safety vest, helmet, safety gloves and clipboard. Go to each room and they have to note down the dangers they see and their recommendations. If resources allow for it, divide the Cubs in Groups of 3 or 2. (in groups of 2, they can work as a pair, but otherwise they should work individually, so that all the cubs in the arrow get to be involved.

When they're done, review what they found, and what they recommended. If they missed a danger, point it out – you can use the photographs to show it to them, so that you don't have to run around.



**Equipment:** Safety vests, helmets, safety gloves and clipboards.



**Place:** HQ



**Group Size:** Arrow Group



**3rd Parties:** N/A






BRONZE ARROW



# ACTIVITY FACT SHEET



## During the Activity:

-  – It is important that the Cubs learn to keep the places we live in as safe as possible for ourselves and also for the benefit of the other persons.
-  – Get the Cubs to physically go around the HQ and point out the dangers you have prepared.
-  – The Cubs will be learning about dangers inside a house.
-  – The Cubs need to think of doable but creative solutions to reduce the dangers as much as possible.
-  – Process with the cubs the importance of feeling safe in the house and the responsibility, each and every one of them have in keeping the place (be it home, school, HQ) safe.

BRONZE ARROW

## After the Activity:

With the help of the Cubs, or otherwise (depending on practicability), clear up the HQ from the dangers you set up.

