

## SAFER CARING

All foster carers are introduced to the concept of safe caring during their assessment as foster carers. All carers should have a copy of their own safer caring policy for their home and family.

The whole family, with the help of their fostering social worker, should write their safer caring policy. When a new child is placed with you, the policy should be checked to see if anything needs to be changed to meet the needs of this particular child. You should review your safe caring policy for any new placement, at the placement agreement meeting or on the first visit following the placement by your fostering social worker.

Some headings you may want to consider: -

1. What names we use
2. How we show affection
3. Bedrooms- who is allowed where, who knocks first
4. Bathrooms – is the door always locked, who assists with bathing
5. How we dress – use of dressing gowns
6. Photographs- asking the child's permission, giving copies
7. The garden – use of just the back garden, is the front garden secure?
8. Travel arrangements- who goes in the back, use of seat belts
9. Going out- coming in times
10. Inviting friends to stay
11. Baby sitting-who does it? How old are they?
12. Use of the telephone (use of mobiles)
13. Use of the computer and computer games
14. Sex Education. Sexual Health –what information do you have available to share with a child.
15. Contact –what are the arrangements? who can visit? who has your phone number and address?

What is covered in these areas will depend on the layout of your home and garden. Whether your child or your foster children are young children or teenagers. Whether children have to share bedrooms.

Attached are some of the Health and Safety checklists used by the fostering social workers. They may help you to think about safety in your home.