

Ranking Risks

There are potential hazards all around us, but if we avoided all of them we wouldn't be able to live our daily lives. In any situation, it's important that we evaluate the level of danger.

Here are some examples of things around a family home that could possibly be dangerous and cause an injury.

- Chip fryer overfilled with oil
- Damaged cable on a DVD player
- Raw chicken left out on the kitchen counter
- Smoke alarm without batteries
- Mobile phone left charging all night
- Shampoo spilt on the bathroom floor
- Bottle of vitamin tablets without a lid in a low unlocked cupboard
- Coffee table with sharp edges
- Child-friendly safety scissors on the bedroom floor
- Candles left unattended around the bathtub
- Electric lawnmower with a circuit-breaker
- Stair gate left open at the top of the stairs
- Open wine bottle left on low table
- Paddling pool left unattended
- Hair straighteners left switched on, on the bed
- Electric TV cable stretched across floor
- Loose tile on the garden path

In groups, discuss why each of these might be dangerous and whether you think it's a high, medium or low risk.

Cont'd

Ranking Risks (cont'd)

Some individuals are more at risk from particular types of hazards than others. Imagine that an adult, a teenager and a toddler live in the house. For each member of the household, choose the five dangers that you think pose the highest risk to each of them. Justify your choices.

Adult

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Teenager

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Toddler

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Challenge

Choose a room or area in your house or school and list all the potential hazards. Discuss with a parent or friend which are the most dangerous. Discuss which hazards you would need to point out to a guest or visitor to the room, in order to help them keep safe.