

## Stairs Safety and Safety Gates

This leaflet provides advice on how you can help keep your child with challenging behaviour safe from danger. The Children's Occupational Therapy Service offers a range of leaflets with advice on how to keep your child safe - call 020 8274 6854 for further information.

Children with challenging behaviour may have little awareness of danger and may need a safety gate to reduce the risk of injury in the kitchen or on the stairs.

### General considerations

- **Your child may still require a high level of supervision on the stairs and when in the kitchen, despite safety measures being in place.**
- A safety gate should only be fitted if there is no danger of the child attempting to climb over it.
- Gates purchased from Mothercare or similar outlets are generally only recommended for children under two years of age.

### Examples of possible solutions

- Large dog gates are higher and more robust than a standard children's safety gate. If possible, trial one before purchasing.
- Half door fitted at the bottom of the staircase, with a bolt fitted where your child cannot access it.
- When a safety gate or half door is not appropriate, a stable door (top and bottom half open separately) may be fitted on the kitchen or bedroom doorway. This allows you to supervise your child while keeping them safe from danger.
- A visual panel or spy hole in a door allows you to check on your child without disturbing them. The spy hole should have 180° viewing range and can be purchased at most DIY stores.
- If your child with challenging behaviour climbs they may be in danger of falling from a landing. Balustrades may need to be built up to prevent this.

### Examples of Suppliers:

- Stair gates: Mothercare, [www.mothercare.com](http://www.mothercare.com)
- Large dog gate: Argos, [www.argos.co.uk](http://www.argos.co.uk) 0845 640 3030
- Half door – a full height door cut down to a suitable size: builder or contractor.
- Stable door - most DIY stores.
- Door with a visual panel or spy hole - most DIY stores
- Croydon Equipment Solutions Ltd: You can receive specialist help and advice as well as view items at the equipment shop, open Monday to Friday, 9am to 4.45pm, at 28 Boulogne Road, Croydon, CR0 2QT.  
Tel: 020 8664 8860.

The lists of companies provided in these information leaflets are not approved lists. Croydon Council and Croydon Health Services accept no liability with regard to any purchases from the companies listed. The list of companies provided is not exhaustive.

**Your questions and comments:**

PALS offers assistance, advice and support for patients and their families. The PALS office is open to callers from 9am to 3.30pm, Monday to Friday. Telephone number 020 8401 3210.