

**Licensed Family & Residential Certificate Child Care**  
**Information on Inspections for Safety Hazards**  
1 September 2009

When inspecting your home for compliance with those rules which address safety hazards, your Licensing Specialist will differentiate between two different areas of your home:

- Areas considered **inaccessible** to children. This includes:
  - Any room or closet with a lock on the door, or a child safety device over the doorknob while children are in care. (This includes closets inside a room if the room has a lock on the door or a child safety device over the doorknob).
  - Rooms or areas of the home blocked off from children with a child safety gate while children are in care.
  - Cupboards or drawers that have a child safety lock on them while children are in care.
  - Cupboards that are higher than kitchen counter height.
  - If a **non-mobile** infant (an infant who cannot get out of the crib or playpen on their own, and who is not within arm's reach of any hazards if they stand in the crib or playpen) naps in a crib or playpen in a bedroom, and the bedroom has a lock or child safety device on the doorknob, the room will be considered inaccessible to children, as long as the **only** child care activity that takes place in the room is the napping of non-mobile infants in cribs or playpens.
- Areas considered **accessible** to children. This includes:
  - Rooms, closets, or areas of the home that are **not** behind a locked door, a door with a child safety device on the doorknob, or a child safety gate while children are in care.
  - Cupboards and drawers in accessible rooms or areas of the home that do **not** have a child safety device on them while children are in care, **and** that are 36" or less from the floor, from the surface of a bed that a child in care sleeps on, or from a surface in a bathroom a child could climb onto (counters, sinks, toilets, tubs).
- In **all areas** of your home, garage, and outdoors (**accessible and inaccessible**) **firearms** must be stored separately from ammunition, and must be in a **locked cabinet, safe, or area**, unless the carrier has a concealed weapon permit. This includes BB and Airsoft guns, but not toy guns. See rule # R430-90-12(4)(a) & R430-50-12(4)(a).

**Inspecting Inaccessible Areas of Your Home**

In each area/room of your home that is **inaccessible** to children, the Licensing Specialist will look into the area or room to see if there are children or illegal items, such as drug paraphernalia, in the area or room.

**Inspecting Accessible Areas of Your Home and Outdoor Yard**

In each **accessible** area/room of your home and yard, the Licensing Specialist will look for the following dangerous items which are prohibited by rule, unless they are behind a fence/gate that is at least 36" high:

- **Tobacco, open containers of alcohol, illegal substances, and sexually explicit materials.** See rule # R430-90-12(4)(b) & R430-50-12(4)(b).
- **Choking hazards** accessible to **children age 2 and under** that are smaller than 1-1/4" in diameter. This does **not** mean you cannot store such items in accessible cupboards or drawers within a child's reach. It means the Licensing Specialist will look to see if there are any items this small on the floor and/or within reach of any infants and toddlers in care the day the inspection is done. See rule # R430-90-12(4)(k) & R430-50-12(4)(k).
- **Uncovered electrical outlets and surge protectors.** See rule # R430-90-12(6) & R430-50-12(6).
- **Toxic or hazardous chemicals.** The specific toxic or hazardous chemicals your Licensing Specialist will look for are: insecticides; insect repellent; pesticides; weed killer; antifreeze and windshield wiper fluid containing antifreeze; flammable liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, paint thinner, linseed oil, and turpentine; motor oil; bleach; household cleaners; nail polish remover; silver jewelry cleaner, and rubbing alcohol. These items must be inaccessible to children, and must be in their original container or in a container that is labeled with the contents. See rule # R430-90-12(4)(d), 90-12(5) & R430-50-12(4)(d), 50-12(5).
- **Fireplaces, open-face heaters, or space heaters, when in use.** See rule # R430-90-12(4)(c) & R430-50-12(4)(c).

- **Sharp objects.** This includes sharp knives, adult scissors, razors, sharp ends of nails or screws that protrude from an object, broken glass, toys with broken edges that could cut or puncture skin, and running fans if children's fingers could fit through the guard. It also includes tack and pins if they are on the floor or visible within 36" of the floor. This does **not** include butter knives, sharp knives in sinks or dishwashers, or sharp knives in butcher blocks placed at the back of the kitchen counter. See rule # R430-90-12(4)(h) & R430-50-12(4)(h).
- **Medication.** This includes prescription and over-the-counter medications, including vitamins and herbal supplements. It does **not** include topical first aid antiseptic, diaper cream, sunscreen, baby powder, teething gel, baby lotion, or eye drops. See rule # R430-90-17(3) & R430-50-17(3).
- **Poisonous plants.** See rule # R430-90-12(4)(e) & R430-50-12(4)(e).
- **Open flames.** See rule # R430-90-12(4)(g) & R430-50-12(4)(g).
- **For age 4 and under, balloons, latex gloves, and empty plastic bags** large enough for a child's head to fit in them. See rule # R430-90-12(4)(j) & R430-50-12(4)(j).
- **Matches and cigarette lighters.** See rule # R430-90-12(4)(f) & R430-50-12(4)(f).
- **Hot water** that exceeds the scalding point of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. See rule # R430-90-12(7), R430-50-12(7)
- **Ropes and cords long enough to encircle a child's neck.** Examples include ropes or cords found on window blinds, or drapery cords. This does **not** include electrical cords or extension cords if they are plugged into the wall or in a drawer. This rule does **not** apply if you **only** care for school age children (children age 5 and older). See rule # R430-90-12(4)(i) & R430-50-12(4)(i)
- In bathrooms accessible to children, the Licensing Specialist will look for safety hazards as outlined above. He or she will **not** look for personal hygiene items such as toothpaste, deodorant, cosmetics, lotion, nail polish, or hair care products.
- Your Licensing Specialist will **not** look in purses, diaper bags, or backpacks. However, s/he will ask you where medications are stored, and if they are stored in purses, diaper bags, or backpacks that are within children's reach this is a rule violation. In this case, the Licensing Specialist will ask you to either put the purse, bag, or backpack out of children's reach, or take the medication out of it and put the medication out of children's reach.

### Inspecting Garages and Outdoor Areas

In addition to the hazards listed above, your Licensing Specialist will look for harmful plants, objects, or substances, and standing water in your outdoor area. If your garage is accessible to children, the Licensing Specialist will also look for these items in your garage on shelves or in cupboards within 36" of the floor, unless the cupboard has a child safety device on it. See rule # R430-90-6(5) & R430-50-6(5).

#### Harmful objects include:

- Raised decks or balconies 5' or higher, or open basement stairwells, without a protective barrier that has no gaps > 5 inches.
- Window wells more than 24 inches deep without a cover.
- Unanchored heavy equipment a child could climb on and/or pull over on themselves, including an unanchored swing set.
- Rotting garbage not in a container with a lid.
- Asbestos or exposed fiberglass insulation.
- Refrigerators or freezers a child could accidentally get shut inside of.
- Welding torches.
- Motor vehicles up on blocks.
- Car batteries.
- Exposed live electrical wire.
- Dead animals.
- Filled milk or slop buckets.
- Unattended running vehicles or farm equipment.
- Standing ladders.
- Unstably stacked wood piles or bales of hay or straw.
- Sharp tools, such as a handsaw.

#### Harmful plants include:

- Poison ivy or oak, stinging nettle, oleander, castor beans, jimson weed, mushrooms, toadstools, and cactus.

Standing water does not include temporary puddles due to rainfall or sprinklers.