

Home Safety Information

Safety in the home is a concern for all parents and carers, particularly with children who are at risk because of lack of safety awareness and/or challenging behaviours related to their disabilities.

Commercially available equipment and minor adaptations

Most home safety equipment is commercially available and not specialist in nature. Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is provided to meet additional costs of a person with a disability. Parents are encouraged to use DLA to fund simple and commercially available home safety equipment. The purchase should be exempt from VAT. Most suppliers should have a VAT exemption form; however a template is available from the HMRC website (www.hmrc.gov.uk).

There is variation in the funding for home fixtures for safety (minor adaptations):

- If you own your **own home** it is your responsibility to fund these.
- If you are in a **privately rented** home, then you will need to speak to your landlord first to obtain their permission before any permanent fixtures can be added. Your landlord has an obligation to provide standard safety adaptations above the ground floor but otherwise it is your responsibility to fund these.
- If you are a **social housing** tenant you will need to speak to your landlord (council or housing association) to obtain their permission before any permanent fixtures can be added.
 1. Enfield Homes may fund minor adaptations if they receive a recommendation from an involved professional referring to their Adaptations Team at adaptations@enfieldhomes.org
 2. Your housing association may fund minor adaptations, but some may insist on an Occupational Therapist's recommendation before they will supply. If this is the case please ask your landlord to refer to adultsocialcare@enfield.gov.uk.

Complex needs and major adaptations

In some cases additional help from an Occupational Therapist (OT) may be required for disabled children with complex needs, to provide strategic advice, equipment and arrange home alterations for more extensive home safety needs. Interventions generally involve major adaptations to the home (works costing over £1000). Major adaptations are variably funded according to tenancy: either via Enfield Homes, special funds held by the housing association, or via a Disabled Facilities Grant. None of these funding streams are means tested for service users aged 18 years and under.

Further information

- **Overleaf:** a list of services where parents can seek further information and advice regarding home safety issues.
- **Leaflet 1:** further information and suppliers details for commercially available equipment and minor adaptations.

- **Leaflet 2:** further information about the major adaptations pathway for home safety issues.

Advice and support services

Kidrapt supply a range of child safety equipment and information on home safety.
www.childsafety.co.uk Tel: 01582 493382

Fledglings are a charity that aims to help parents and carers to find the equipment they need for their child with a disability. 0845 4581124/ 01799 541 807

The National Autistic Society provides information, advice and services for people with Autism. www.autism.org.uk Tel: 0808 800 4104

Early Years Support Service provides information and offer access to additional services for families with children under the age of 5 years old.

SCAN (Service for Children & Adolescents with Neuro-developmental disorders) provides a community outpatient service for children/young people with mental health problems associated with severe learning disabilities and neuro-developmental disorders. Written referrals are accepted from professionals involved with the child. Tel: 020 8375 2806

ERIC (Education and Resources for Improving Childhood Incontinence) is a national charity that supports children with continence problem. Tel: 0845 3708008

Age UK Enfield provides Handyperson services for minor repairs and installing safety fixtures for a reduced cost and will provide this service to families with disabled children. Tel: 020 8375 4120

R H White Ltd local handyperson, building and decorating services from accredited contractor, approved by Enfield Council. Tel: 020 8367 4964

ROSPA General child safety info and advice from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

Fire Service General fire safety advice and information about fire safety home visits

CBF Challenging Behaviour Foundation information includes a list of charities that can be approached about funding as well as organisations that can make bespoke solutions to problems (such as REMAP or DEMAND)

Enfield Joint Service for Disabled Children

Turn 2 Us For help finding a grant Turn 2 Us have a database of trusts and funds, such as trusts related to the profession of a parent or the religion of the family.
http://www.turn2us.org.uk/grants_search.aspx