

I like to know what's
going on but might
fall from an
open window



Falls from windows

I don't always know when I'm in danger

Aims and objectives

Recognise how children explore and play, and the risk of falls from a window.

Activity/Session

Parents/carers discuss how their child uses their body and their imagination while playing.

Outcomes

Learners to be able to:
Understand early development, to recognise how children explore through play and learn. Consider fall from height risk reduction and prevention ideas.

Session notes

Why might a child fall out a window?

- Children love to explore and make up imaginary situations.
- If they are attracted by something out of the window, they could topple and fall through it.
- If beds, sofas, chairs or other furniture are placed near to a window, or if children have pulled something across to climb on, they can fall out.
- If there is no safety catch to stop the window opening too far.

What can you do to stop this kind of accident from happening?

- Fit safety catches, locks or window restrictors to stop your windows opening too wide.
- Move furniture like beds, chairs and tables away from windows.
- Do not forget ground floor windows, as falls onto hard surfaces can cause severe injuries.

How else may a child fall from a height?

- If a child gets onto a balcony they could fall. There should be a barrier at least 110cms (43") high around a balcony. Keep balcony doors locked so that children can't get out alone.

Surprising facts

- Children may be able to repeat safety instructions but may not remember them if distracted or excited.
- They test their abilities and set challenges as part of their play.
- They create imaginary situations and characters.
- Young children are killed every year after falling from windows – it is not as uncommon as you may think.
- If a child can get to a window, they are more than likely to be able to open the catch or lever handle.
- Strong imaginations (after seeing superheroes flying from windows) can lead to real danger.