

Strangulation and blind cord safety

Some accidents seem very unlikely – but there are a growing number of cases of children catching themselves on blind cords or other loops, like rotary dryer clothes lines when collapsed, dummy strings and draw string bags.

If your child gets tangled in one of these cords it could be fatal.

How many children die of strangulation?

- Asphyxia (which includes choking, strangling and suffocation) is the second most common cause of accidental child death in the UK, after road traffic accidents.
- 30 babies and toddlers have died from blind cord strangulation in the last 15 years (CAPT)

FACT: it can take only 20 seconds for a child to die from strangulation if they get tangled on a blind cord

The Blind Truth

A local family tell their tragic story of Brian, a 2 year old boy who lost his life to strangulation by blind cords. This story can be found on You Tube using the following link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30ziiHQZR5s>

'Make It Safe Campaign'

Make it Safe is a campaign from the British Blind and Shutter Association (BBSA) to promote window blind safety in all homes, public buildings and other environments where babies and young children may be present.

Resources:

The BBSA have produced 'Make it Safe' brochures in 12 different languages to promote blind cord safety. These can be downloaded directly from the BBSA website by clicking on the brochure below or ordered from the Promoting Wellbeing Division.



Blind cord cleats and cord tidies can also be supplied to those working with families and under 5's from the Promoting Wellbeing Division.

To order resources completing the resource request order form

For further information Contact Lisa McAliskey, Community Health Improvement Officer on 028 3756 3952 or lisa.mcaliskey@southerntrust.hscni.net