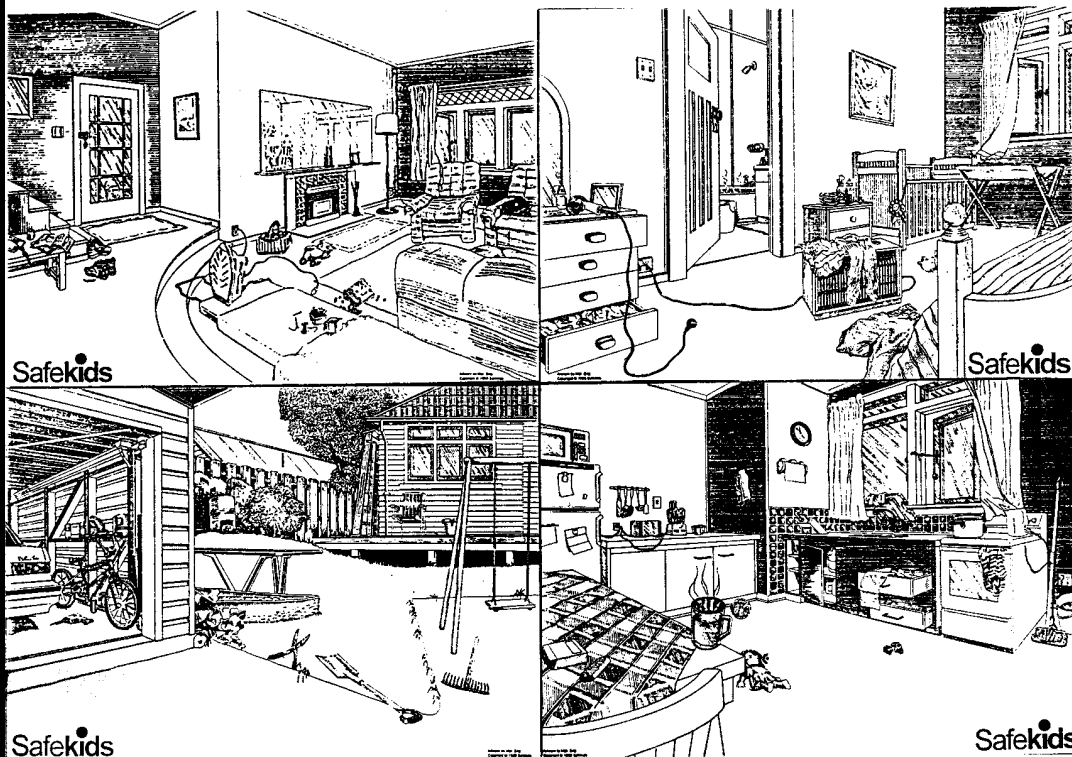


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Home Safety Discussion Posters

These discussion posters are designed to raise awareness of common home hazards that may cause injury to children.

There are 4 posters in the set:



They can be used in a number of ways and a variety of settings. These might include with individuals in the home, with small groups in community settings and as class activities with children.

Group participants can be asked to identify the hazards and suggest ways of controlling those hazards to prevent injuries. To assist facilitators a list of hazards and possible prevention strategies is printed on the reverse of each poster.

The discussion posters have been designed to be easily photocopied. The original posters are A3 size but are clearly reproduced at A4 size.

Home injuries

Around 40% of unintentional injury deaths and perhaps as high as half of all unintentional injuries occur to children in or around the home. For children under 5 the figures are even higher.

Deaths

The 4 leading causes (approx 90%) of injury deaths for children in and around the home are:

- drownings (42%) - close to three quarters in private swimming pools
- suffocation or obstruction injuries (18%) most commonly in cots/beds
- fire (14%)
- driveway pedestrian deaths

Hospitalisations

The 4 leading causes of children being hospitalised from home injuries are:

- falls
- cutting & piercing
- burns and scalds
- poisoning

Who is injured?

Younger children are at greater risk than older children and boys are more often injured than girls. Children from some ethnic groups appear at greater risk of certain causes of injury e.g. Maori and Pacific Island children are more at risk from burns and scalds and European children from poisonings and drownings in private swimming pools.

Why is home a dangerous place for children?

- Young children spend a great deal of time at home.
- Children are not little adults, they are less able to recognise and deal with potential hazards.
- Homes are designed and built for adults.

How do we go about providing safer homes for children?

Through safe behaviours such as:

- providing better supervision
- developing safer family practices
- modelling safe behaviour

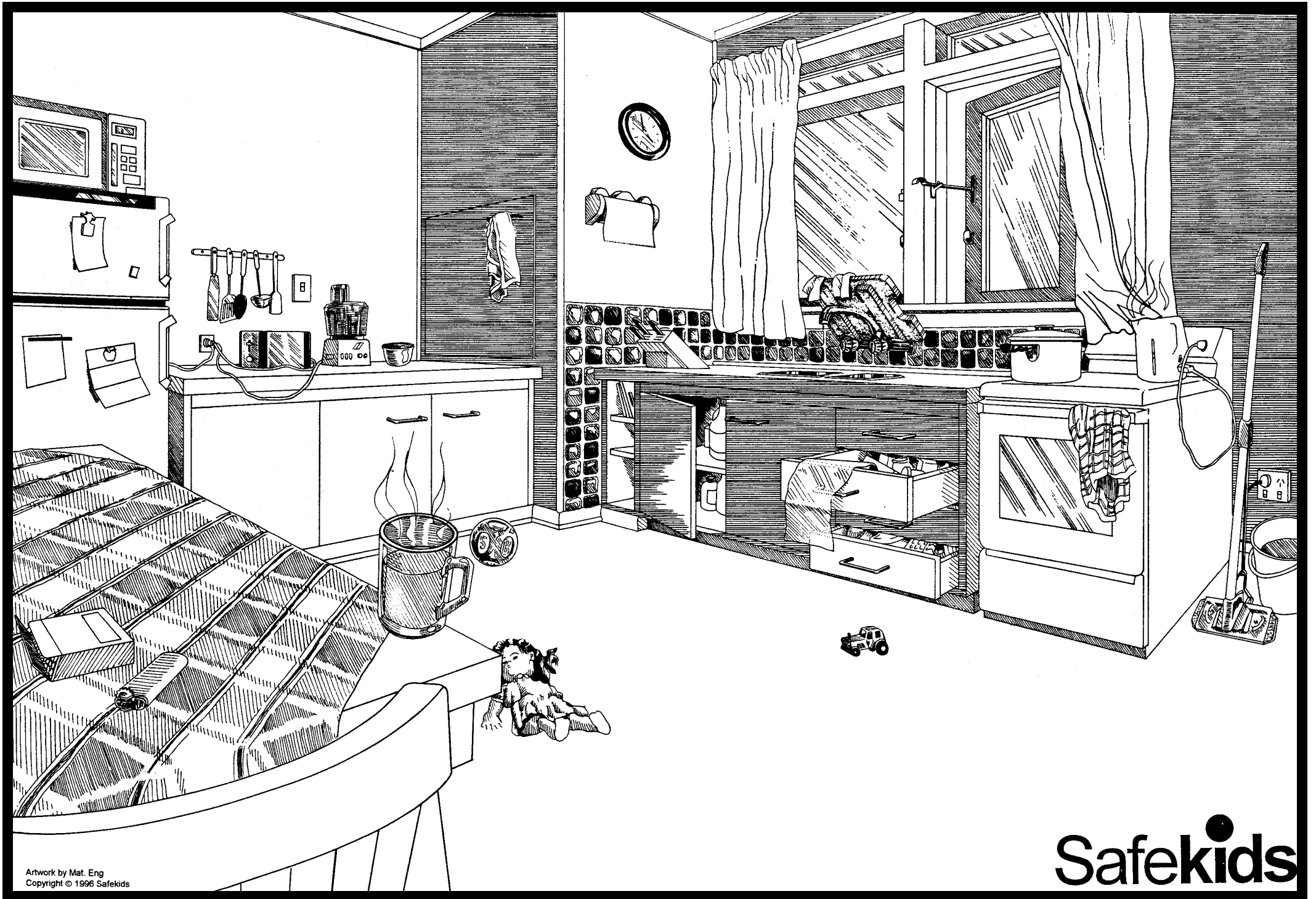
Such measures are important, but we all know that 24 hour supervision of children in the home will never be a reality for most families and that children can be ingenious in finding their way around the most strongly stated rules

The developmental and physical limitations of young children mean we cannot count on their having any real safety awareness. We cannot assume they will do as they are told or copy our own safe behaviour.

Another way we can effectively protect children is by making the environment safer:

Creating safer home environments by:

- using safety products
- incorporating safety features into new home designs
- passing regulations & legislation which sets minimum safety standards



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Kitchen

The drawing on the other side of this poster is of a kitchen environment in which a number of potential hazards are illustrated. The hazards are listed below together with suggested strategies for controlling the hazards and preventing injury.

Burns and scalds

Cigarettes and lighter on kitchen table	Should be out of reach/sight
Tablecloth on table enables child to pull cloth and objects down onto themselves	Use table mats or no covering
Hot drink close to edge of table	Place in centre of table out of reach
Is Microwave too high?	Put at height to be out of reach of younger children but easily accessible to older children who can use it safely
Toaster, food processor and kettle cords hanging down within child's reach	Shorten cords or hook up out of reach
Pot handle sticking out from stove within child's reach	Turn handle to back and use back element
Curtain near to heat source/stove	No curtains in kitchen, blind better if necessary at all
Uncovered electrical socket	Use electrical socket cover

Falls

Window unlocked child able to climb out	Security lock will open window far enough to let in air but child cannot fall out
Toys on floor, tripping hazard	Pick up toys, or move to area not in walkway

Cutting and Piercing

Knife block on bench within reach of child	Knives should be out of sight/reach
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Poisoning

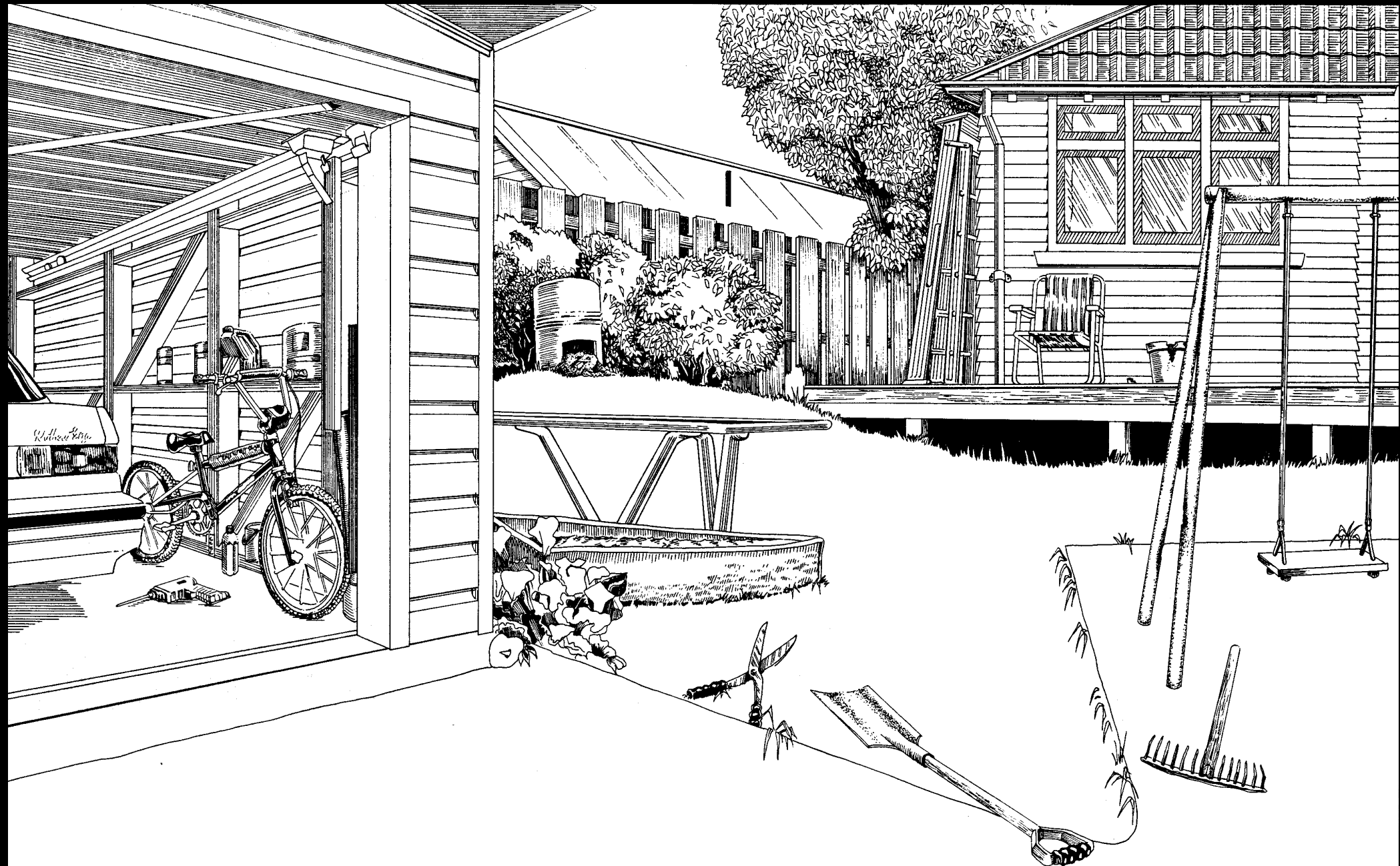
Household chemicals stored in unlocked cupboard under bench	Should be stored in locked, preferably high cupboard
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Asphyxiation

Plastic wrap hanging out of drawer	Should be out of sight/reach
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Drowning

Bucket of water	Empty bucket immediately after use
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Backyard/outdoors

The drawing on the other side of this poster is of a backyard/outdoors environment in which a number of potential hazards are illustrated. The hazards are listed below together with suggested strategies for controlling the hazards and preventing injury.

Falls

Trampoline

Should have safety pads and be placed in clear space well away from other hazards. Consider having impact absorbing surface under tramp and placing it in a pit.

Ladder

Should be stored away when not in use

Swing on concrete

Concrete not appropriate surface under swing, should at least be on the grass or have impact absorbing surface underneath

No banister around deck

Should have banister

Poisoning

Chemicals on open shelves in garage

Should be stored in locked preferably high cupboard

Arum Lilies-poisonous plants

Not advisable to have in garden of young children

Cutting and piercing injuries

Garden and other tools

Should be stored out of reach when not in use

Burns and scalds

Incinerator close to foliage/fence – ashes not cleared away

Should be placed well clear of anything flammable and hot ashes should not be left where children can get at them

Drowning

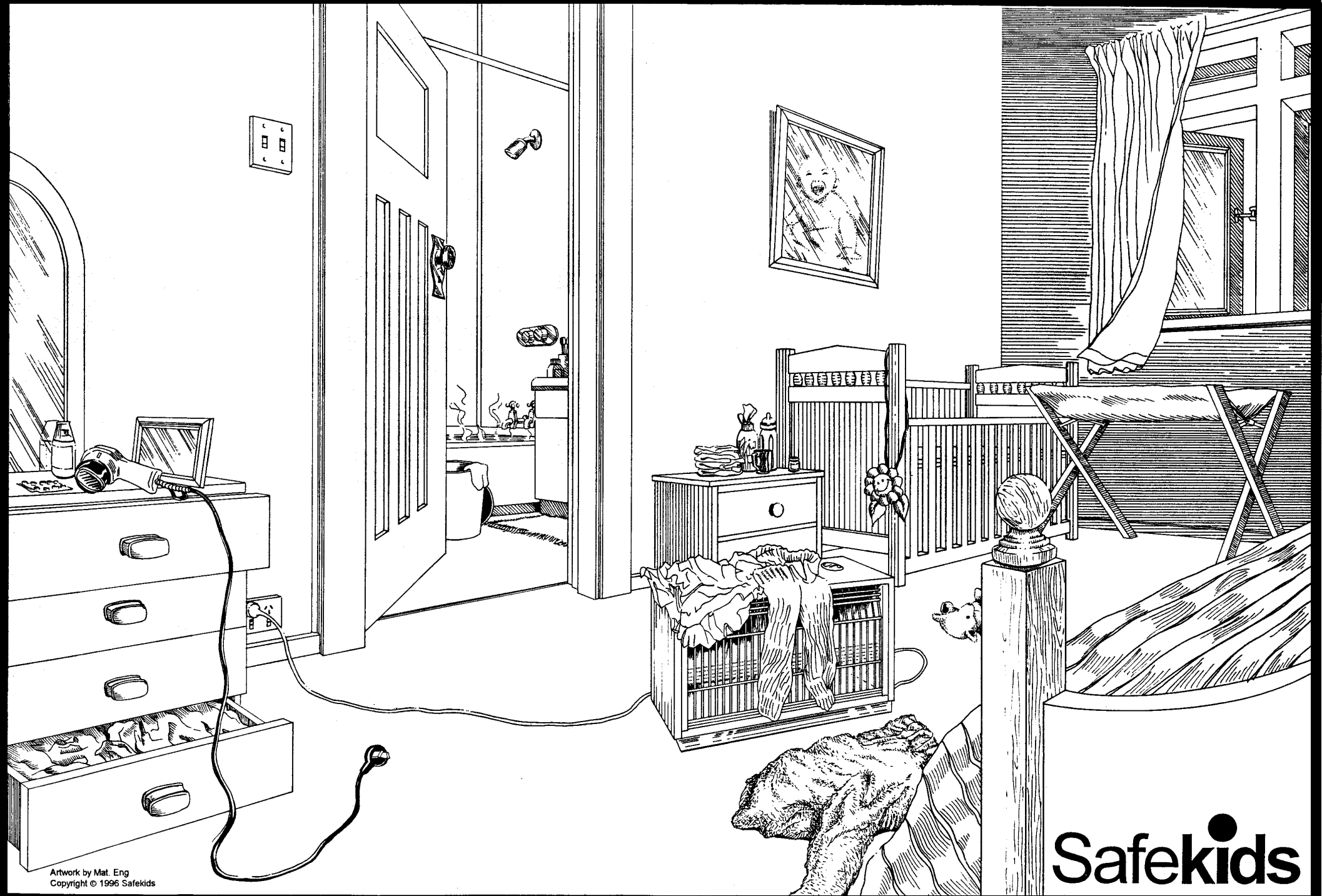
Paddling pool

Should be emptied when not in use

Other

Hole in fence

Needs to be mended or blocked up



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Bedroom/bathroom

The drawing on the other side of this poster is of a bedroom/bathroom environment in which a number of potential hazards are illustrated. The hazards are listed below together with suggested strategies for controlling the hazards and preventing injury.

Burns and scalds

Hairdryer	Should be put away after use
Uncovered electrical socket	Cover with electrical socket cover
Hot water in bath	Ensure cold water put in first Ensure household hot water temperature no more than 50 degrees when delivered
Heater without guard/with clothes on top	Remove clothes, put guard around heater

Falls

Nappies and changing equipment (wet ones etc) too far away from changing table	Rearrange room so that clothes and equipment are accessible without leaving changing table
Changing table not properly locked	Use safety equipment provided
Unlocked window	Use security lock that enables air flow but does not allow child to climb out
Teddy on floor	Pick up teddy and ensure toys not left in passage way

Poisoning

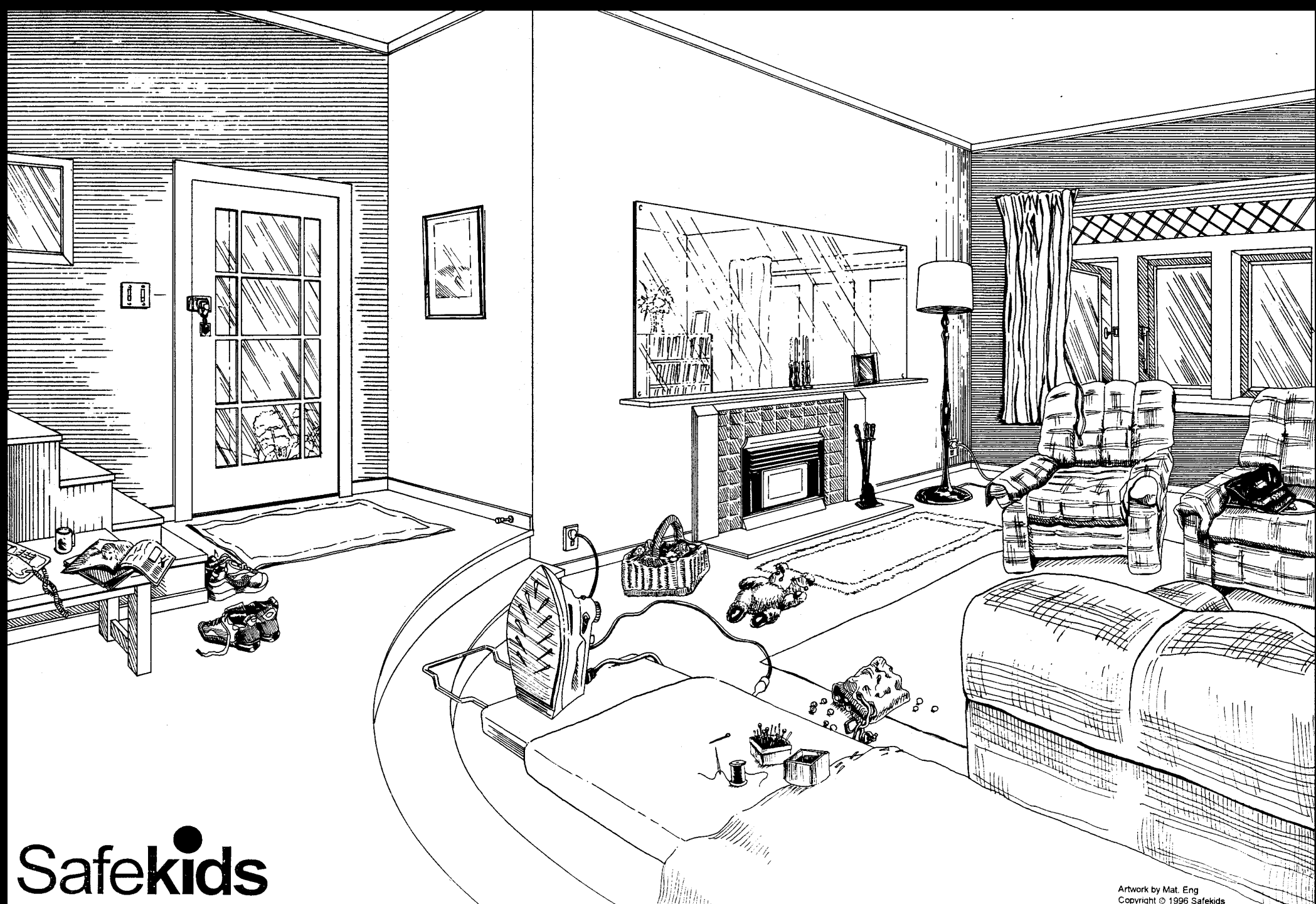
Pills & medicine on dressing table	Keep out of reach/sight preferably in high locked cupboard. Ask for prescription to be dispensed in child resistant container
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Drowning

Uncovered nappy bucket in bathroom	Put tight lid on and put out of reach e.g. in laundry tub
Unattended water in bath	Fill bath immediately before use and release water immediately after use

Asphyxiation

Hanging ornament on cot	Remove anything that could get wrapped around child's neck
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Lounge

The drawing on the other side of this poster is of a lounge/living environment in which a number of potential hazards are illustrated. The hazards are listed below together with suggested strategies for controlling the hazards and preventing injury.

Falls

Stairs without bannister	Bannister needed
Mat in front of door – tripping hazard	Remove mat
Extension cord across room – tripping hazard	Take ironing board closer to power outlet
Teddy on floor – tripping hazard	Pick up from floor

Asphyxiation/Suffocation

Teddy's eye coming off	Secure teddy's eye
Marbles on floor	Remove marbles from small children
Curtain cord on chair can loop around child's neck	Put over hook out of reach

Cutting and Piercing

Coffee table with sharp corners	Use soft corner protectors or remove temporarily while children learning to walk
No safety glass in door	Replace with safety glass or cover with safety film
Pins and needles	Put away when not in use

Burns and scalds

Iron	Do not leave unattended Place iron and board in playpen
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Falls

Window not locked, easy access from chair	Use security catch which will enable air flow but children cannot climb out
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Poisoning

Handbag containing pills	Keep out of reach/sight. Ask for prescription to be dispensed in child resistant container
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