

# Environmental Safety Checklist

By John F. Smith

- ☐ Lighting
  - ☐ Light bulbs should be the proper wattage for their fixtures.
  - ☐ Light bulbs should be replaced whenever they burn out.
  - ☐ An ample number of floor and table lamps should be provided in recreation and reading areas.
  - ☐ Light should always be aimed at the work, not at eyes.
  - ☐ Mirrors should be placed so that lighting doesn't reflect off them and create glare.
  - ☐ There should be easily accessible light switches near all doors.
  - ☐ Lamp cords and electrical light wiring should be in good condition with proper insulation on all wires.
  - ☐ Lamps should be shaded to prevent objects from falling into contact with hot light bulbs.
  - ☐ Blinds, sheer curtains, or draperies should be used, because they allow for the adjustment of natural light.
  - ☐ Few chairs should be placed near windows for reading or doing hand crafts in natural light.
- ☐ Appliances
  - ☐ Make sure that all cords are plugged in fully.
  - ☐ Make sure the wires are not frayed.
  - ☐ Ensure that cords don't run through areas where people walk.
  - ☐ Keep appliances out of reach of children.
  - ☐ Label machines properly with safety instructions.
- ☐ Elimination of Hazards
  - ☐ Replace worn carpeting and floor covering.
  - ☐ Do not wax floors; use non-skid, non-glare products to clean and polish floors.
  - ☐ Keep desk chairs and table chairs pushed in.
  - ☐ Make sure there are no wet floors on which a child can slip.
  - ☐ Make sure there are no wires, cables or uneven flooring to trip on.
  - ☐ Make sure kids do not have access to chemicals, drugs, sharp objects or any other dangerous equipment.

- ☐ Outdoor
  - ☐ Outdoor environment should be fenced.
  - ☐ Make sure that there are no poisonous or otherwise harmful plants accessible to the children.
  - ☐ A pool should be fenced and locked.
  - ☐ Make sure there is a padded flooring or a sand box for kids to play.
  - ☐ Play equipment should be checked to ensure that there are no sharp edges or choking hazards.