

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.