

Risk Assessment – Bathing

Activity: Bathing

Location: Bedroom

Number of people required: Two

Risk to our son: Medium

Risk to handler: Medium

Equipment needed: Hoist, changing bench, bath seat, kneeling pad, tegaderm, bell, pipe lagging, and thermometer. Ensure all clothes, soap, towels, pad etc are ready

Skill required: At least one member of staff must have been trained and be proficient in carrying out the task

Considerations: Health of handlers on the day, time available, our son' health/mood on the day, This can impact on his tone and control of movements. Test bell and check that second person is going to be available for the whole task. Getting cold is not desirable for our son therefore bathroom needs to be warm. He is **NOT** to be left alone in room while on bench/in bath **EVER**.

Alternatives: Ask our son if he would like a shower/strip wash, complete on another day.

Task	Risk to our son	Risk to you (handler)	Action
Hoisting our son from chair to changing bench		Trip or fall	Before bringing our son into the bathroom ensure floor is clear of trip hazards
	Scalding due to uneven temperature of water		Place bath seat in the bath after the bath has been filled with water.
	Bench moving		Secure bench legs with pins
		Calling for help in isolated room	Ensure bell is within reach of bench.
Raising or lowering bench		Strain/injury to back when handling changing bench	1) Awareness of bench weight before lowering 2) Awareness that legs/side move while lowering 3) Use of pulley system to help take weight
	Gap between the bench and wall down which he could slip		Place padded board across the gap before hoisting our son on to the bench
	Falling off bench		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not move away from the bench without putting the side up Ensure all clothing, pad etc are within reach of bench
	Trapping limbs		Awareness of gap between bench and wall, and the holes in the rail. Even with side up do not leave our son on the bench unattended

Task	Risk to our son	Risk to you (handler)	Action
Hoisting our son from changing bench into bath	Pulling/catching button when undressed		Apply tegaderm to our son's button prior to removing vest.
		Strain/injury to back	1) Hoist our son and move away for the bench, ensuring there is enough clearance for bench to be lifted 2) Remove padded section from the gap 3) Support our son while bench is lifted and then hoist into bath, ensuring he is in the centre of the bath chair. While person 2 supports him, remove loops from hoist and move hoist out of the way 4) Secure the straps over his waist
Bathing	Scalding/burning		1) Check temperature of water using the thermometer as well as your hand/elbow (should be between 35.5 and 36.5 degrees Centigrade) 2) Lower our son slowly and stop when his feet touch the water and again when his bottom is in the water to check that he is happy with the temperature, adding hot/cold as appropriate
		Strain/injury to back whilst supporting our son in the bath.	1) Awareness of posture - try and keep knees bent and feet apart to reduce bending at the trunk 2) Use kneeling pad to kneel by the bath to support him with washing
	Our son is unable to support himself independently in the bath and is at risk of drowning		Our son must not be left unattended or unsupervised when in the bath
		Slipping/tripping	While our son is in the bath he likes to splash. Be aware of slippery floor/towels
Calling for Help			Keep bell within reach as our son must not be left unattended in the bath
Hoisting from bath to bench	Comfort in sling/ pinching skin		Check our son's position in the sling before hoisting
		Strain/injury to back	1) Attach loops to hoist and bring hoist up so that straps are taut and then undo chair straps from around Ian's body. 2) Hoist our son up and away from bath to allow clearance for bench 3) Lift bench (see lifting/lowering)

Task	Risk to our son	Risk to you (handler)	Action
			3) Once bench is in place hoist him on to it
	If sling wasn't attached our son could fall into bath		Check hoist and pull plug out of bath before starting transfer

Sign off sheet for staff to acknowledge they have read this policy

Print your name

Sign your name

Date
