creating safe spaces for babies

FLOURISHING TOGETHER
London West Early Years Stronger Practice Hub

Creating a safe environment for babies is about balancing exploration with responsive care. Here are some key considerations to keep in mind as babies develop new skills and become increasingly curious about the world around them.

- **Supervise closely:** Stay nearby and attentive,
- **Provide safe floor space:** Use a firm, clean surface, clear of sharp objects, trailing cords and other hazards. Never leave babies unattended on raised surfaces.
- **Check resources carefully:** Choose baby-safe toys without small or detachable parts. Keep button batteries, magnets and older children's resources out of reach.
- **Secure furniture:** Anything used for pulling up or cruising must be stable and unable to tip. Review hazards as babies become more mobile
- **Keep tummy time for awake periods**: Always supervise it. Place babies on their backs for sleep, in an appropriate clear sleep space
- **Handle babies gently:** Support their head and neck where needed, and avoid forcing sitting, standing or walking before they are ready
- **Respond to cues:** Pause or adapt activities when babies appear tired, distressed or uncomfortable.
- **Maintain hygiene:** Clean mats and mouthed resources regularly.
- **Prepare practitioners:** Ensure staff understand safe handling, emergency procedures and infant first aid, with appropriate training and support.
- **Meet individual needs**: Work with families and follow any professional advice or care plans, adapting activities so every baby can participate safely.