

October 2016

Dear Colleagues,

Re: Safe storage of nappy sacks

The Child Health Improvement Team would like you to share this important message with the families of West Sussex.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents ([RoSPA](#)) has recently highlighted a concern about babies whose deaths have been linked to them gaining access to nappy sacks. RoSPA report that they are aware of one to two nappy sack-related deaths a year and know of at least 16 deaths.

While most people are well aware plastic bags can be dangerous to children they don't associate these risks with nappy sacks so are less likely to take the same safety precautions.

The Child Accident Prevention Trust ([CAPT](#)) suggests that when parents are struggling with a wriggling baby during a nappy change, it's much easier to have nappy sacks stored close by. But add in the baby's well developed grabbing and hand-to-mouth reflexes – plus their inability to pull the flimsy plastic away from their mouth again – and suddenly you've got a deadly combination.

Advice from [NHS Choices](#) is to keep plastic bags, including nappy bags, out of reach and sight of young children. Keep them away from babies' cots, so that they can't reach them and put them over their nose and mouth.

► Resources to highlight this concern are available from [RoSPA](#)

