

Family Routines Cont.

Make sure your child has a regular bedtime, early enough to allow adequate sleep - avoid tying bedtime with the close of business. Make sure the child's sleeping quarters are safe and quiet. If you need advice about noise management contact the Environmental Health service, their number is at the back of this leaflet.

Try to keep clear boundaries so that family activities don't take place in the licensed area, for example:

If you have meetings with health or social care professionals, meet in the family living quarters of the premises rather than the public area.

Reserve a play area that is secure and private for your children and their friends to play in - put a sign up to let the public know, if it's not part of the licensed area.

Avoid involving children in business tasks. If children of compulsory school age work at the premises, under local bylaws they must have consent from the council - even if the child is your relative or friend. This is to make sure they are safe in the work environment and are only doing suitable tasks. This is a legal requirement and it may affect your insurance if you don't have the correct permissions from the local authority.

If you need further advice about the issues raised in this leaflet please contact the agency you need from the list overleaf.

Useful Contacts

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Licensing Service

Municipal Buildings
Church Road
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 1LD

Tel: **01642 526558**

licensing.administration@stockton.gov.uk

Children's Social Care

Tel: **01642 130080**

Outside of office hours: **01642 524552**

childrenshub@hartlepool.gcsx.gov.uk

Stockton-on-Tees Environmental Health

Tel: **01642 526575**

Outside of office hours: **01642 528034**

environmental.health@stockton.gov.uk

Family Life at Licensed Premises

Advice for Parents and Carers



Introduction

In many ways, family life for parents/carers living at licensed premises is no different than for people living in other types of households. It presents no problems and children living there enjoy normal family life.

For some parents/carers though, living at licensed premises can present extra challenges in caring for your children, depending on the type of premises you live at. For example, family life at a community pub will be different to living at an off licence or club, as the trading hours, type of customers and activities at the premises may affect lifestyles in different ways.

How is family life different for children living at licensed premises?

Often people living and working at licensed premises work unsocial hours, including evenings and weekends and the building is open to the public some of the time. The way the business operates may restrict the leisure time parents/carers have available to spend with their children. For example, if the business is open until the early hours of the morning, parents/carers might not be able to provide a consistent bedtime or morning routine. If the premises provides late night entertainment/loud music, or if customers use the external areas for drinking, smoking and socialising, this may affect your children's sleeping patterns, particularly if their room is not soundproof, or people leave the premises in a rowdy way.

When your home is in a licensed premises, your children may be sharing part of the building and outside play areas with customers, who are members of the public and often strangers to your child. It's important to have clear boundaries between family life and the business, to keep your children safe and ensure they have a suitable home environment to play and develop in.



Making the environment safe for children

First of all a 'risk assessment' should be done, so that you are aware of what the potential risks might be at your premises. By identifying risks, you can put in safety measures to allow your children, their friends and relatives to enjoy family life without being affected by customers or your business. Here are some points to consider, to help you provide a safe environment.

- Is alcohol available/accessible to children and young people? Is stock stored in a safe place, locked away and out of sight? Even a small amount of alcohol can be lethal for a child, so it's important to have a safe storage regime.
- Are the living quarters secure enough to prevent customers/members of the public entering? (It is not appropriate to lock children in the living quarters if they are alone without a supervising adult.)
- Is there a safe, private play area?
- Are your children prevented from wandering about in unsafe areas, unsupervised (such as the licensed area, the car park, public toilets)? Children should not play in the licensed area while you are working as this may put them at risk of harm, so alternative childcare arrangements should be made - also there may be licence conditions to prohibit children in this area.
- Could your child be exposed to customers' unsuitable, illegal or dangerous behaviour, such as drug use/dealing; use of strong or offensive language; drunkenness, violence, weapons or gangs? Is there a risk of criminal/sexual perpetrators?

- Do you train your staff to monitor the premises and address dangerous activities? Do staff check that drug paraphernalia (such as discarded syringes) is not left around? Do they contact the police if activities in public areas escalate out of control?

Remember, your child may be exposed to whatever risk is at the premises.



Family routines

When you work at your home, balancing the needs of the family with running a business can be a challenge. Here are some tips to help make sure your family routines run smoothly:

- Organise the staff rota to cover the business while you do the 'school run' or attend health/school appointments with your child.
- Book in some time daily to spend with your children together as a family.
- Organise your childminding arrangements so that the children are supervised by a responsible adult while you work - even if you are nearby, or downstairs on the premises.