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**To All Head Teachers and
Managers of all Educational
Establishments**

www.croydon.gov.uk

Your ref:
Our ref:EJSC/accident/JFW

Date: 08 March 2001

Dear Colleague

Accident Report, Investigation and Prevention

At a recent meeting of the Education Joint Health and Safety Committee, the Corporate Safety Section gave feedback on some accident investigations to prevent similar accidents occurring in schools.

I have been asked to write to you and give examples of three recent accidents:

Accident 1

A class of children was walking along a corridor in a special school and had to pass through a fire door, which was fitted with a self-closing device. Because of the children's ages (around 5 years old) and medical conditions, the class was led through the door in small groups; one group following closely behind the other. Two nursery nurses led the first two groups and the class teacher led the third group. As each group passed through the door, the three adults took it in turn to hold the door open for their respective groups. This had the effect of the door partially closing as each adult/group passed through.

A child placed her fingers in the hinge area of the door as she passed through. The door partially closed and "crushed" the child's fingers, but was prevented from closing completely by a nursery nurse.

All schools, but particularly special schools, should assess the risks of children's fingers being trapped in the hinge areas of fire doors. Where there is a significant risk, which cannot be controlled through supervision/procedure, a product is available which can be fitted on the door as a finger guard to prevent fingers being trapped. For further details about the product, please contact "Finger Safe " on 01702 479474

David Sands – Director of Education

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