



**HEALTH & SAFETY BULLETIN
01/05**

SUBJECT: BOOK FAIRS - PORTABLE BOOK DISPLAY UNITS

This bulletin is to inform you of an incident that occurred in one of our primary schools, in which a scholastic book display unit fell onto a young toddler, who subsequently sustained a serious leg injury.

On initial investigation by the school, it would appear that the buffer at the rear of the unit, which normally prevents the book case opening fully, did not operate and a young toddler leaned against the unit causing it to open and fall.

The school did follow the instructions by the supplier for setting up the display units and carried out a risk assessment for the event.

Scholastic are working with the School and the LEA to ascertain the cause and we will keep you informed.

In the meantime, we are advising schools to ensure that ALL portable book display units which are supplied by the companies who promote the Book Fairs are fitted with an appropriate stay, ie chain, strap, hook, or other mechanism to prevent the units from being fully extended. Schools are also strongly advised to carry out checks on all free standing units they may have to ensure stability and where necessary take appropriate action, eg securing units to walls.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Health & Safety Section if you require any further information.

Debbie Todd
Health & Safety Officer
Education & Cultural Services
14th March 2005