Danger in a House: A Toddler’s Interaction with Possible Risks  
Noriko Shingaki (shingaki@qomo.org)  Hisao Nojima (nojima@nozy.org)  
Faculty of Social Innovation, Seijo University;  
6-1-20, Seijo, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo, Japan 157-8511

Abstract  
In Japan, the most frequent causes of children over 1 year old was death by accident. In this paper, we tried to understand what kind of possible dangers there are in a house, and how a toddler recognize them. The result indicated that at least at 15 month, the toddler interacted with various dangerous things in a house.

Keywords: toddler, risk perception, everyday activity

Introduction  
In Japan, according to the statistics from 1960 and onward, the most frequent cause of the death of children age between one and nineteen was unexpected accidents. The reasons for this may be

• It is not well understood for children themselves and those who take care of them realize the dangers in various everyday tools and play equipments.

• Although after the accidents happen, the information of them and other know-how’s to prevent them are not shared between those who are relevant and responsible.

According to the survey by Morrongiello[1], children only understand less than half of what their parents supposed to have taught them. We see in parks that parents invite their children to play with equipments that are above their physical capability levels. This episode indicate that even parents do not understand the designers’ intended level of the play equipments.

In this paper, we describe our first observational study on how a child interact with things in a house, and how the interaction evolves with her development, especially on her perception of dangerous things in a house.

Method  
Daily activities of a baby A was videotaped monthly from 4-month to 15-month. Each recording was done for the whole 24 hours. Videotapes were analyzed especially on which things she touched and what kind of interactions there were in a day. Database was created for all things that she touched in the video.

Participant  
Baby A goes to nursery school on weekdays and stay at her house with her parents on weekends. The house consists of three members, father, mother and baby A. Video recordings were done in holidays when all three members were present.

Data was collected from August 2005 (4 month old) to June 2006 (15 month old).

References  