

Tuesday, 15 January, 2013 SCMP

Mainland toddler falls to her death in North Point

A toddler fell to her death from the window of her father's ninth-floor North Point flat yesterday.

Hong Kong-born Yim Ka-ying, 2½, had been visiting her father in the city with her mainland mother and aunt.

She was playing beside her aunt, 36, on a sofa in the living room of the flat on Tsat Tse Mui Road when she fell at about 11.30am. The sofa was immediately in front of a 45-cm window.

"The toddler was playing and climbing around by her aunt on the sofa when she suddenly clambered up it and fell out of the window," a police officer said.

The aunt "went mad" and ran downstairs for help from a security guard, he said.

Yim, who was an only child, fell on the building's first-floor podium. She was declared dead at the Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital in Chai Wan just before 1pm.

The officer said the window had been closed but was unlocked and it did not have a grille.

"We think the window flew open when the girl climbed up on the sofa and pressed on it, then she fell out," she said.

Her father, a Hong Kong businessman, and 31-year-old mother were not in the flat at the time of the incident, police said.

Eastern Police Station detectives are investigating whether the girl's death involved negligence. No one has been arrested.

The toddler was brought to the city on Friday from the mainland by her mother and aunt, to visit her father. The three are understood to have frequently made the journey between Hong Kong and the mainland.

The Social Welfare Department called on parents and carers to provide appropriate care to children and ensure their safety.

Against Child Abuse director Jessica Ho Oi-chu said every effort should be made to give children a safe home environment.