



Risk assessment

Risk assessments are carried out to ensure the safety of children, staff, parents and visitors. Legislation requires all individuals in the workplace to be responsible for the health and safety of premises, equipment and working practices. We have a 'corporate responsibility' towards a 'duty of care' for those who work in and receive a service from our provision. Individuals also have responsibility for ensuring their own and others safety.

- Generic risk assessment form is completed for each area of work, and the areas of the building that are identified in these procedures

Risk assessment means: *Taking note of aspects of your workplace and activities that that could cause harm, either to yourself or to others, and deciding what needs to be done to prevent that harm, making sure this is adhered to and is updated when necessary.*

The law does not require that all risk be eliminated, but that 'reasonable precaution' is taken. This is particularly important when balancing the need for children to be able to take appropriate risks through physically challenging play. Children need the opportunity to work out what is not safe and what they should do when faced with a risk.

Daily safety sweeps and checks indoors and outdoors

- Safety sweeps are conducted when setting up for the day prior to children arriving or closing in the evening. Sometimes a safety sweep will identify a risk that requires a formal risk assessment on form. For example, if a window latch is becoming stiff and a practitioner has to stand on a chair in order to reach it to ensure it has closed properly.

Health and safety risk assessments

Health and safety risk assessments inform procedures. Staff and parents should be involved in reviewing risk assessments and procedures, as they are the ones with first-hand knowledge as to whether the control measures are effective and they can give an informed view to help update procedures accordingly.

The setting manager undertakes liaising with the management hall committee that all safety checks are complete on the building and relevant paperwork held.

The setting manager ensures that staff members carry out risk assessments that include relevant aspects of fire safety, food safety, in each of the following areas of the premises:

- Entrance and exits.
- Outdoor areas.
- Passageways, stairways and connecting areas.
- Group rooms.

- Main kitchen.
- Rooms used by others or for other purposes.

The setting manager ensures staff members carry out risk assessment for off-site activities, such as children's outings (including use of public transport), including:

- other duties off-site such as attending meetings, banking etc

The setting manager ensures staff members carry out risk assessment for work practice including:

- The intimate care of young children and older children
- arrivals and departures
- children with allergies and special dietary needs or preferences
- serving food in group rooms
- cooking activities with children
- supervising outdoor play and indoor/outdoor climbing equipment
- visitors to the setting who are bringing equipment or animals as part of children's learning experiences, for example 'fire engines'
- following any incidents involving threats against staff or volunteers
- following any accident or incident involving staff or children