

Q: Safety and suitability of premises, environment, and equipment - Risk assessment - Childminders

What do I need to know?

- Legal Framework
 - [The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999](#)
- [Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) page 28, paragraph 3.75.

Safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment - Risk assessment (page 47-48 of audit)	Things to consider and discuss:
<p>Do you ensure you take all reasonable steps to ensure children in your care, and any assistants are not exposed to risks and are you able to demonstrate how you are managing risks?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would you identify risks? • What are the reasonable steps you take to ensure you; any assistants and children are not exposed to risks? • How do you manage risk? How would you demonstrate this? • Do you have written risk assessments for areas of the environment that should be checked on a regular basis? How do you identify these areas, and do you consider when and by whom these areas are checked and how the risk will be removed or minimised? • Do you have clear policies & procedures on risk assessments? What are these procedures? How do you know they are implemented consistently? • In what circumstances would you carry out an individual child and, or adult risk assessment? • In what circumstances would it be appropriate to contact your insurance company? Have you checked with your insurance provider, health and safety legislation, employees’ responsibilities, food legislation if, and when you are required to produce written risk assessments? • What are the additional considerations when taking children on outings or when doing school pick-ups? • What procedures do you have in place to ensure the suitability of all adults working or visiting the setting? • How can you support children to risk assess their actions?

<p><i>Guidance on risk assessments, including where written ones may be required where five or more staff are employed, can be obtained from the Health and Safety Executive: Risk assessment - HSE</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you ensure staff are aware of the Health and Safety Executive “Managing risks and risk assessment at work” information? Do they know how to access this document? • Are you aware if you have 5 or more employees written risk assessments may be required (see Health and Safety Executive -HSE)? • Are any assistants given sufficient time to read, understand this information and update their knowledge regularly? Do you need to update your policies and procedures?
<p>Do you ensure you determine where it is helpful to make some written risk assessments in relation to specific issues, to inform your practice, and to demonstrate how they are managing risks if asked by parents and, or carers or inspectors?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you determine which risk assessments your setting will record? • How do you use written risk assessments to inform practice? • How would you demonstrate how you are managing risks if asked by parents and, or carers or inspectors? • How do you share risk assessments and procedures with staff, children, parents and, or carers your setting’s agreed procedures, i.e., how you identify, minimise, record, demonstrate due diligence and manage potential risks?
<p>Do you make sure your risk assessments identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis, when and by whom those aspects will be checked, and how the risk will be removed or minimised?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which aspects of your environment (indoors and outdoors) have you identified as needing to be checked on a regular basis? How have you identified these aspects? When and by whom will these aspects be checked? What evidence do you have to ensure these checks have been completed? How will the risk be removed or minimised? • How do you ensure that the manufacturer’s guidance is known before children access resources and equipment and how is this followed -especially regarding age-appropriate advice? • How is this information shared with any assistants including new staff? • Do you continually risk assess the environment and the activities of children? • Do you consider risk against benefit? What measures do you use to decide when the risk outweighs the benefit? What would be an acceptable risk? • What strategies do you use to minimise risk?

Useful links and further help:

[Managing risks and risk assessment at work](#)

[ROSPA](#)

[Play Safety Forum](#)

[Child Accident Prevention Trust](#)

[Fire safety in the workplace](#)

[Fire safety risk assessment: 5-step checklist](#)

[Significant events to notify Ofsted about](#)

[Report a serious childcare incident](#)

[Reporting children's accidents and injuries](#)

[Derbyshire SchoolsNet - Early Years Quality Team](#)

[Derbyshire Early Years Service - Eventbrite](#)

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