

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

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](#): page 35, paragraph 3.65.
- Providers should consider where it is useful to have a written risk assessment and which areas of the environment should be checked on a regular basis. They must consider when and by whom these areas are checked and how the risk will be removed or minimised. They must share this information with parents and inspectors if requested to do so.
- If you have 5 or more employees written risk assessments may be required (see Health and Safety Executive -HSE). Ensure you are aware of relevant health and safety legislation relating to your business.
- The requirements of your insurance, which could demand risk assessment / policy to be in writing, health and safety legislation, employers’ responsibilities, food safety legislation also the additional legal requirements of the childcare register CR 5.5.
- Childminders are not required by the EYFS to have written risk assessments however, please check your insurance requirements.

| Safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment - Risk assessment (page 44 of audit) | Things to consider and discuss: |
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| Do you ensure you take all reasonable steps to ensure staff and children in their care are not exposed to risks and are you able to demonstrate how you are managing risks? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would you identify risks? • What are the reasonable steps you take to ensure staff and children are not exposed to risks? • How do you manage risk? How would you demonstrate this? • 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/adult risk assessment? • In what circumstances would it be appropriate to contact your insurance company? • What are the additional considerations when taking children on outings or when doing school pick-ups? |

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](#)

Do you **ensure** you determined where it is helpful to make some written risk assessments in relation to specific issues, to inform staff practice, and to demonstrate how you are managing risks if asked by parents and/or carers or inspectors?

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?

- 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?
- 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 staff given sufficient time to read, understand this information and update their knowledge regularly? Do you need to update your policies and procedures?
- How do you determine which risk assessments your setting will record?
- How do you use written risk assessments to inform staff 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?
- 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/equipment and how is this followed -especially regarding age appropriate advice?
- How is this information shared with staff including new staff?
- Do staff 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](#)

[The Five Step Guide to Risk Assessment – RoSPA Workplace Safety Blog](#)

[Play Safety Forum](#)

[Child Accident Prevention Trust](#)

[Fire safety in the workplace](#)

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

[Report a serious childcare incident GOV.UK](#)

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

[Derbyshire Early Years Service - Eventbrite](#)

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