

Safeguarding

The importance of risk



Play is a key element in children learning to appreciate, assess and take calculated risks, which is fundamental to the development of confidence and abilities in childhood. Children seek out opportunities for risk taking and it is the responsibility of the provision to respond with exciting and stimulating environments that balance risk appropriately.

Task

Think of instances where children in your care have sought out opportunities that have associated risks e.g. standing on a chair to add blocks to a tall tower they're building or jumping from the top of the climbing frame when outside.

- How did you respond and why?
- What were the associated risks?
- Did your role impact on the child's experience, play or learning in any way?
- On reflection, is there anything you could do differently?

As a team, consider what opportunities there are for children to take risks. Do staff respond consistently to these risks? What other opportunities or changes to practice/provision could you make to widen the opportunities for children to identify, assess and manage risks?