

# Safeguarding

## Risk Assessments (1)



“Providers must ensure that they take all reasonable steps to ensure staff and children in their care are not exposed to risks and must be able to demonstrate how they are managing risks<sup>63</sup>. Providers must determine where it is helpful to make some written risk assessments in relation to specific issues, to inform staff practice, and to demonstrate how they are managing risks if asked by parents and/or carers or inspectors. Risk assessments should 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.”

### **(DfE Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage-2023)**

To ensure that the setting is safe, it is important to carry out thorough risk assessments.

Are all staff aware of the difference between a hazard and a risk?

A hazard is something that can cause an accident or harm to someone; the risk is the possibility of a hazard causing an accident or harm.

## Task 1

Reflect and discuss the questions below:

- How thorough is your risk assessment?
- How often is it reviewed?
- Who is involved in completing the assessment?
- Are all staff aware of the existence of risk assessments in your setting and how they are expected to contribute?
- Are there areas within your building where children are not allowed? How do you make sure these areas are not accessible?
- Does your setting have a daily check list which identifies any risks associated with the building or equipment, which needs to be checked on a regular basis?
- How do you ensure that such check lists are carried out effectively?
- How do you secure areas where children are not allowed access? E.g. the kitchen
- How often do you update your risk assessments?

## Task 2

Do you know what the five steps to risk assessments are? Click on the link and share with your team: [INDG163 - Five steps to risk assessment \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/indg163-five-steps-to-risk-assessment/) Think about and discuss how this method can support you to assess health and safety risks in your setting.

## Task 3

Walk through your setting and:

- Identify risks and hazards both indoors and out, including equipment, materials, and procedures.
- Evaluate the risk and identify who it is of risk to.
- Identify what action needs to be taken to eliminate or minimise the risk of hazard, including timescales.
- Establish who will be responsible for taking the necessary action.

Potential hazards you may wish to include in assessing the risks in your setting;

- Electricity and gas
- Doors, windows, and glass
- Floors and stairs/steps
- Stacked furniture
- Water
- Hot appliances
- Foods and liquids
- Trips and outings

Additionally, you may want to create a room map of your play spaces and mark down the hot spots for potential hazards. Review your current risk assessments and note any hot spots that are not already included.

Include the children in this process, asking them to identify hazards and explore how they can avoid them safely.

## Useful Links

A brief guide to controlling risks in the workplace: [Managing risks and risk assessment at work – Overview -HSE](#)

PACEY Risk assessment template:

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/business-smart/business-planning/risk-assessment-template/>