



Focus On...

Risk assessment

Each child and every adult using your provision has the right to feel safe and secure. Assessing the risks in your environment is an important part of this; it involves you identifying potential hazards and considering any actions which may need to be taken to minimise the risk that they pose.

Risk assessment is something that most of us will do naturally in many environments, for instance, when walking in a wintry environment we may choose to wear boots with good grips or avoid the patch of ground which is covered in ice. If we walk into a playroom and see a small chair upturned, then we will choose to pick it up in case anyone falls over it. Risks within the early year's environment will vary in severity and although we may consider each risk, not all will need to be formally written down

As an employer, you're required by law to protect your employees, and others, from harm. You can use this website to support your thinking when do this. [Managing risks and risk assessment at work – Overview -HSE'](#)

When completing risk assessments in your setting it may be beneficial to look at your environments from a child's perspective, get down on the child's level or ask some children to help you. Seeing things from a different level may highlight some hazards that you might not always notice from an adult's height. Consider how children of different ages and stages of development move around, transitions from the indoors to the outdoors, how you separate areas that are not used by children, how children access the toilet/handwashing, how they access resources, etc. Also think about storage of items out of reach of children for example things that are stored on shelves, are they safe or could they fall off on to a child? Is the shelving unit secured to the wall? If you have a TV is this secure or could it tip off the unit if a child can reach it?