



RISK ASSESSMENT – Early Years / Nursery (Schools)

ACTIVITY: Early Years/Nursery September 2025				DATE OF ASSESSMENT	
ESTABLISHMENT/SCHOOL			SECTION/TEAM		
WHO MIGHT BE HARMED?				HOW MANY ARE AFFECTED?	
HAZARDS (including inadequate / lack of arrangements)	EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES	✓ if in place ✗ if not	IF '✗' STATE THE ACTION TO BE TAKEN WITH TIMESCALES OR INDICATE ANY ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES	RESIDUAL RISK RATING High, Medium, Low	
Internal play <i>Slips, trips, injury</i>	All equipment purchased/loaned to be checked to ensure they are safe for the ages and stages of children attending activity				
	Layout of equipment to allow adults and children to move freely between activities				
	All equipment checked regularly for cleanliness, state of repair etc.				
	All glues, paints etc. are non-toxic.				
	Supervision is constant during physical play				
	Children taught how to use play equipment correctly.				
Outdoor play Play equipment <i>Slips, trips, falls, minor injury</i> Sandpits <i>Sand in eyes/face etc. Contamination</i>	• Regular checks for defects and reporting of these in place.				
	• Repairs undertaken where necessary.				
	• Sandpit checked for unsafe items before play and covered after use				
	• Clean sand regularly (including area around sandpit)				
	• Appropriate sand is being used				
	• Activities supervised at all times				
Pen tops, small items - choking	• Pen tops, small items which young pupils could place in their mouths will not be stored or used in their designated area or room. Daily checks are completed.				
Doors – trapping and shearing injuries	• Finger guards fitted to the hinges on heavy doors.				
	• Door closing devices fitted to prevent slamming.				

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Falls from climbing apparatus – major injury	Is play equipment obtained from a reputable educational source?			
	Is the play equipment designed for the age group concerned?			
	Are regular checks for defects completed and recorded to EN1176, Playground equipment standard i.e. routine, operational and annual?			
	Are repairs undertaken by a competent contractor to EN1176 where required.			
	Restrict and control numbers on apparatus at one time (specify the maximum number of children)			
	Supervision of use required at all times			
	Apparatus not to be used when wet and slippery.			
	Clear rules about appropriate behaviour (for example not to hang upside down from monkey bars)			
	Children to wear appropriate footwear			
Ensure that impact absorbing surfaces are present where there is a significant risk of a fall (<i>not required for climbing equipment below 600mm</i>).				
Bullying / stress, physical injury	An anti-bullying policy should be in place			
	Adult supervisors should be familiar with the policy			
	Training for supervisors in identification and prevention of bullying			
Fighting/ Rough games / injury	Supervisors aware of rules on appropriate behaviour			
	Supervisors trained in how to deal with this type of situation			
	Prohibit inappropriate games			

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Security/ Children absconding/leaving grounds unobserved <i>Unsupervised contact with adults /abduction, assault, child protection issues</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedures in place for the arrival and departure of children (including when children leave early) Well maintained fencing in place (no holes or gaps) Points of access onto the site minimised with clearly signed routes to the reception If possible, provide alternative routes for visitors which will bypass playing areas. Gates closed / secured during outside activities Avoid children playing in areas out of sight of adults Areas identified as higher risk made “out of bounds” (Identify on a plan) 			
Security Unsupervised contact with adults, absconding abduction, assault	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintained, un-breached fencing (no holes or gaps) 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points of access onto the site for visitors minimised with clearly signed routes to the reception 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where possible provide alternative routes for visitors which will bypass playing areas. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gates closed / secured at break times 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gates are maintained and regularly checked 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid children playing in areas out of sight of supervisors 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas of site identified as higher risk made “out of bounds” (Identify on a plan) 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision levels appropriate for the layout of the site and the play areas, especially in the vicinity of the gates and where there are public footpaths through the school grounds. (Identify on a plan) 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are arrangements in place for the supervision of use of climbing equipment? 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify any blind spots due to walls, trees, bushes, play equipment, etc. 				

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Hard surfaces / steps and steep slopes <i>slips trips and falls</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the play areas are even and well maintained. Any areas which become unsuitable will need to be coned off and placed out of bounds until repairs can be undertaken. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area periodically checked for missing drain covers, uneven surfaces, etc. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Games not to be played on steps 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure these areas are gritted in the winter when there is ice and snow 			
Inadequate response to accidents / more serious injury	Adequate numbers of supervision to account for emergency situations			
	First aid kits located close by playing areas			
	Trained first aiders present on the site and available at all times			
	Supervisors who do not have first aid training are aware of the action they should take in the event of an injury and what not to do			
Weather	Suitable outdoor clothing (sunhats/wet weather wear) to be worn			
	Sunscreen to be applied by parents where applicable			
Food and Drink	Staff trained to appropriate levels in food hygiene			
	All food and drink is stored appropriately			
	Adults do not carry hot drinks through play area(s)			
Burns and Scalds	All radiators are fitted with appropriate guards.			
	No children are allowed in the kitchen.			
	All taps at hand washing and other facilities, at which children have access, are fitted with Thermostatic mixing valves to prevent water being discharged above 43°C.			
	Staff do not take hot drinks into rooms with children, staff only have hot drinks in the staff room.			
Slip, trip and falls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there a policy in place? 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are all slip and trip hazards dealt with immediately? 			

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Fire	• Escape routes are kept clear at all times.			
	• Firefighting equipment is available – where required by risk assessment.			
	• All staff aware of fire procedure and Fire Risk Assessment.			
Are there any other foreseeable hazards associated with this activity? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>List any additional control measures</u>			
Reference Documents				
 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2				
ASSESSED BY (Print name)			SIGNED	DATE
LINE MANAGER			SIGNED	REVIEW DATE

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