

## **Risk Assessment**

**You are legally required to complete risk assessments and review them regularly. It is your responsibility to demonstrate to the Ofsted Inspector that your home is a safe and suitable environment for the children in your care.**

**This document is not a risk assessment in itself. It is a guide to what you should include in you risk assessment. It makes suggestions only; every home will have individual safety issues. You should refer to the Welfare Requirements within the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. Once you have identified the risks use the template provided.**

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**Suggested check list to support you with the completion of your risk assessment – you should think carefully about your own home environment**

General Areas of Risk -	Checked	Needs Attention	Safe	Comments
<b>General Safety</b>				
All electrical flexes well away from worktop edges and hot appliances				
Dangerous substances out of children's reach				
Gas appliances serviced regularly – When was your gas boiler last serviced? - Is there adequate ventilation Carbon monoxide detectors should always be at least 1.5 metres from the centre of an appliance and at least 0.8 metres off the floor				
Electrical appliances – keep serviced regularly				
Temperature of radiators				
Regular fire drills				
Emergency plan that is reviewed regularly				
A fire blanket conforming to BE EN standards is fitted within easy reach of the cooker				
Dangerous equipment and hazardous substances stored safely – think about hobby equipment and materials				

Electrical sockets are covered				
Fireguards are fixed around fires and heaters				
Glass doors/panels have strengthened glass or are covered with protective film (check for kite mark)				
Are mirrors safely hung, or out of reach?				
Stair gates – are they fitted correctly? Safety of stairs and banisters				
Steep stairs – are there handrails/ banisters?				
Carpets – are they worn, likely to cause someone to trip				
Windows – are there sufficient locks and catches?				
Door locks – is there a secure lock on the back and front door?				
Adult literature and videos stored away				
Medicine – all medicines, tablets, creams, ointments, sharp scissors stored away				
Sharp corners on tables/furniture				
Low level glass				

Plants – are there any poisonous plants – <b>list of plants in appendix 1</b>				
Meter cupboards – locked				
Alcohol – stored safely				

<b>General Areas of Risk -</b>	<b>Checked</b>	<b>Needs Attention</b>	<b>Safe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Kitchen/utility room specific</b>				
General hygiene – liquid soap				
Hot – water Not scalding				
Knives and sharp kitchen instruments locked in drawer – drawer catch				
Fitted cupboard locks				
Mats – floor – not slippery				
Individual hand-towels for children				
Highchairs – adequate harnesses				
Pets food/water bowls out of reach of children				
Oven doors, high temperature areas – heat resistant glass				
Plastic bags – out of reach				

Hazardous machines, substances or objects inaccessible/locked away				
Washing powders, liquids, cleaning fluids, equipment, locked away/ inaccessible				
Flexes from kettles and other appliances inaccessible.				

<b>General Areas of Risk -</b>	<b>Checked</b>	<b>Needs Attention</b>	<b>Safe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Bathroom/toilet</b>				
Storage – shampoo, medication, tablets, razors, scissors and hair remover, nail polish remover, varnish, mouth wash – What other hazardous items do you have in the bathroom?				
Cleaning materials – bleach, toilet cleaning materials – out of reach/locked away				
Water temperature – not scalding water				
Separate hand towels and flannels – liquid soap				
Adequate facilities for disposal of nappies				
Baths, shower trays and floors safe				
Correct equipment for children such as step for the sink				

<b>General Areas of Risk -</b>	<b>Checked</b>	<b>Needs Attention</b>	<b>Safe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Hall and Stairs</b>				
Front door lock				
Access to garage – locked				
Is there space for buggies				
Adequate fire escape access – no buggies, toys etc barring quick safe exit				
Sufficient smoke detectors which are tested regularly				

<b>General Areas of Risk -</b>	<b>Checked</b>	<b>Needs Attention</b>	<b>Safe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Playroom</b>				
Window locks				
Appropriateness of toys - danger of swallowing small objects, or strangulation, safe materials including stuffing, eyes and noses on stuffed toys, paints				
Are toys and equipment clean and do they meet current safety standards.				
Lids of heavy toy boxes – safety hinges				

Heating – temperature kept comfortable				
Well ventilated				
Good natural lighting				
Hygienic and clean				
Well maintained				
All curtain cords kept out of reach				
Low-level glass is safe				

<b>General Areas of Risk -</b>	<b>Checked</b>	<b>Needs Attention</b>	<b>Safe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Car</b>				
Current and adequate vehicle insurance (Show certificate to Inspector)				
Current MOT (Show certificate to inspector)				
Current Tax Certificate				
Child locks				
Appropriate and correctly fitted child safety seats				
First Aid Box				

Blanket – (suggested) in case of accident				
Contact details for each minded child in case of emergencies				



General Areas of Risk -	Checked	Needs Attention	Safe	Comments
<b>Outside Areas and Outbuildings</b>				
Gates and fences secure in relation to the ages and abilities of the children to include drive and front garden if used for play				
Surfaces, well maintained and safe				
Outside play equipment: make it safe – consider where is placed in the garden				
Play equipment must be <b>securely fixed</b>				
Play equipment <b>check condition regularly</b>				
Sandpits covered when not in use				
Garden furniture in good condition				
Any poisonous plants or prickly plants in the garden – <b>see appendix 1</b>				
Garden rubbish cleared away				
Greenhouse – not accessible – covered with safety film or replaced with perspex sheets				
Sheds, outside cupboards, garages, locked and inaccessible to children				
High drops e.g. stairs, cellar, unprotected openings made safe or inaccessible				

Animal cages, food and excreta cleared and inaccessible				
<b>General Areas of Risk -</b>	<b>Checked</b>	<b>Needs Attention</b>	<b>Safe</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Risk of falling objects; stacked wood, bricks ladders – remove risk				
Hazardous plant –See appendix 1				
Poisonous seeds – See appendix 1				
Garden chemicals, fertilizers, fluids should be stored inaccessible to children				
Dustbin and recycling bins are inaccessible and hygienically maintained				
<b>Water</b>				
<b>All water activities need to be supervised – never leave a child alone – even for a few minutes</b>				
Ponds, drains, water butts should all have weight bearing covers				
Pools should be emptied immediately after use				
Check water for temperature				
Check for hazards associated with flooding and areas where water can collect, such as buckets, puddles, sandpits, toys and outside equipment				

General Areas of Risk -	Checked	Needs Attention	Safe	Comments
<b>Outings</b>				
Risk Assessment for each type of outing				
Signed parental consent forms for children to take part in outings, trips and events with you				
Road safety training with appropriately aged children				
<b>First Aid Box – see First Aid Notes</b> Appropriate and adequate supplies Box inaccessible to children				
<b>Hazards and Safety Issues you have identified in your home not mentioned above:</b>				

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## Appendix 1. Poisonous Plants

The following is a list of some of England's most readily available, commonly grown plants, which are very poisonous. The list is NOT comprehensive

Latin Names	Common Name(s)	Identified? - made safe
Aconitum	Monkshood	
Arum	Arum Lily, Lords and Ladies	
Atropa beladonna	Belladonna, Deadly Nightshade	
Brugmansia, Datura	Datura, Angels Trumpets	
Colchium	Autumn Crocus	
Convallaria	Lily of the Valley	
Daphne	Daphne	
Dieffenbacia (a houseplant)	Leopard Lily, Dumb Cane	
Dititalis	Foxglove	
Euphorbia	Spurge	
Gloriosa superba (a conservatory/indoor plant)	Glory Lily	
Hedera	Ivy	
Helleborus	Hellbore, Lenten Roses	
Laburnum	Lanurnum, Golden Rain	
Lantana	Lantana	
Nerium	Oleander	
Primula obconica	The Poisonous Primula	
Prunus laurocerasus	Cherry Laurel	
Ricinus Communic	Castor Oil Plant	
Ruta	Rue	
Taxus	Yew	