



Risk Assessment in Childcare Log Book

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Name of Client in Here
Risk Assessment in Childcare



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Introduction

Working with Health & Safety in childcare is something you may have already been doing for years, therefore all you may need to do is document (write down) what you already do. Inevitably it acts as an excellent prompt and reminder for even the most diligent of us.

When undertaking risk assessments the law requires them to be “suitable and sufficient”, this means that you do not need to write reams of assessments, nor does this need to take days and weeks to complete. The assessment simply needs to be commensurate with the hazards and risks you and your charges experience on a day to day basis. When we are writing up our risk assessment the law requires us to document our “significant findings”.

What is reasonable to expect is that children will fall over things, they will trap their fingers, they will fall off things, and it is these reasonably foreseeable areas you should concentrate on when you carry out a risk assessment.

When you conduct your assessments you will notice that there is some repetition in the questions, be aware these may or may not apply depending if you assess your business as a whole or do your assessments room by room. Very often the same answer will apply, simply refer on your assessment to the previous assessment completed, this will save you writing for writings sake!

When undertaking risk assessment always remember not to over complicate them.

Some of the more common incidents that can occur in child care environments are detailed below, and whilst it is not necessarily a weekly event at your premises, the very nature of dealing with people means that genuine accidents will continue to happen, this process is designed to reduce and limit their impact.

1. Staff injured while storing or lifting equipment, generally back injuries.
2. Slips, Trips and Falls from defective flooring, wet surfaces etc.
3. Children falling from height, whilst playing or otherwise.
4. Children’s fingers trapped in doors.
5. Children’s finger trapped or scratched through using defective or faulty equipment.
6. Children injured by falling chairs that have been badly stacked or by falling over equipment
7. Children or babies mouths or fingers burned by hot food
8. Children leaving the room or the pre-school building without being noticed
9. Assault cases e.g. biting another child/being hurt by a member of staff

Below are some of the areas of potential hazards with higher than acceptable risks;

Security	Hygiene
Doors	Windows
Kitchen area	Floors
Electrical Equipment	Heating and Lighting
Outdoor areas	Storage
Activities	Food and drink
Records	Outings and visits
Fire	First Aid and Medication

(Source; Pre School Learning Alliances)

Insert Client name and basic address here, ON ONE LINE