

Risk Assessment for Childminders

Last update: March 2021

Childminder Name:	
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The aim of the Risk Assessment is to support Childminders in thinking safeguarding and taking appropriate steps to ensure their premises/outings are safe for the children they care for or anyone living in their home. This document should be shared with any over 16 years old individual living with you or visiting regularly so they can help you in keeping the environment suitable and secure. The below lists includes the most common examples however, there is a section at the end of the document (Section 7 – Other Hazards) which can be used for anything particular to your premises/outings.

Steps description

Step 1 What are the hazards?	Step 2 Who might be harmed and how?	Step 3		Step 4 Frequency of checks
		What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	
Using the listed hazards below, walk around your premises in all areas where children will have access and identify what could be of danger or have potential risk.	This could be either everyone, children, babies or toddlers of a certain age or any other individual having access to your premises. List the risk(s) the hazard causes.	List what is already in place to reduce the likelihood of harm or make any harm less serious.	You need to make sure that you have reduced risks as far as is reasonably practicable. To assist you compare what you are already doing with good practice and guidelines. If there is a difference, list what needs to be changed.	How often do you check that any actions are still in place or that the environment is safe? i.e. at all-time/daily/weekly/monthly/before children arrive/ etc.

Example of how to complete this document

Step 1 What are the hazards?	Step 2 Who might be harmed and how?	Step 3		Step 4 Frequency of checks
		What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	
Dirty dish clothes.	Everyone – could cause ill health through bacteria.	Cloths are changed daily.	Replace cloths on a regular basis/when necessary.	Daily
Houseplants	Children – risk of skin irritation or poisoning if ingested.	Put plants out of children’s reach.	Monitoring/Supervising	At all-time

Section 1 – Kitchen and Food Handling

Step 1 What are the hazards?	Step 2 Who might be harmed and how?	Step 3		Step 4 Frequency of checks
		What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	
Oven and hob	Children – could burn or scald themselves.	Cooker guard in place.	Further safety process must be detailed here:	
Overhanging leads and pan handles	Children – danger of burning or scalding themselves.			
No safety catches on cupboards and drawers	Children – could access dangerous substances (i.e. cleaning products, plastic bags, knives and alcohol). Also at risk of trapping fingers.	Safety catches are only preventive. All dangerous substances are must be out of children’s reach.	Ensure all dangerous substances are out of reach.	
Fire Blanket not wall mounted or placed inappropriately.	Everyone – fire hazard.			
Refrigerator not kept between 4-5° C and the freezer not at 18° C.	Everyone – incorrect storage of food could lead to ill health.			
Food stored inappropriately in the refrigerator i.e. raw meat, uncovered food items, etc.	Everyone – Cross contamination could lead to ill health.			
Not washing hands before the preparation of food and/or after handling raw meat.	Everyone – Cross contamination could lead to ill health.			

Food preparation surfaces and chopping boards not cleaned thoroughly.	Everyone – Cross contamination could lead to ill health.			
Packed lunches inappropriately stored.	Children – incorrect storage of food could lead to ill health.			
Dish cloths, tea towels and/or mop heads not cleaned and/or changed regularly.	Everyone – ill health as they harbour germs and bacteria.			
Rubbish bin not closed, emptied regularly and/or kept clean.	Everyone – health risk and children having access to inappropriate items.			
Not reheating and/or cooking food to the correct temperature.	Everyone – harmful bacteria remaining in food could cause ill health through food poisoning.			
Floor not kept clean.	Especially crawling babies and toddlers – unhygienic.			
Using food that has passed the 'used by date'.	Everyone – ill health.			
Not stock rotating food (placing new food items in front of food already purchased).	Everyone - food could be used after 'use by date' and cause ill health.			

Unlocked access to alcohol or at child's reach.	Children –alcoholic poisoning. Reminder: intoxicated adults should never have access to the children as this increase the risk of accidents.			
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Section 2 – Internal Premises

Step 1 What are the hazards?	Step 2 Who might be harmed and how?	Step 3		Step 4 Frequency of checks
		What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	
External door(s) unlocked.	Children - could leave and/or provides unauthorised access to the premises.			
External door(s) locked and keys are not kept at an easy reach for adult.	Everyone – escape route blocked and/or easily accessible.			
Door bolts within child's reach.	Adults - could be locked out of the premises.			
Opened windows.	Children - could fall or climb out and/or provide unauthorised access of premises.			
Smoke detectors not checked regularly or replacement batteries not accessible	Everyone – high risk of fire being undetected. Risk of smoke inhalation or fatality.			

Fireplace without a fireguard/spark guard and/or fitted securely.	Children – could burn themselves or fall against the hearth.			
Overloaded plug sockets.	Everyone – fire hazards.			
Drinks near electrical items.	Everyone – electrocution.			
Radiators becoming too hot (Recommended temperature is between 19-21° C).	Everyone – risk of burning.			
Ambient temperature either too hot or cold (Recommended temperature for babies is between 16-20° C).	Children – could faint and/or ill because their own body don't regulate their internal temperatures.			
Plug in air fresheners and/or other types of air fresheners including potpourri.	Children – risk of allergic reactions, poisoning or choking.			
Trailing wires.	Children - could pull or chew on them causing electrocution.			
Cords trailing from blinds or curtains.	Children – risk of hanging and/or strangulation.			

Furniture layout.	Children - could trip and/or fall against furniture if there is not sufficient space for their play.			
Tall cupboards or bookcases are not fixed to the wall.	Everyone – cupboards or bookcases could fall on top of someone.			
Tablecloth on table.	Children - could pull on this resulting in heavy or hot objects falling on them.			
Wall mounted frames.	Children – could cause injuries due to items being pulled.			
Free hanging/standing full length mirrors.	Children - could cause injuries due to items being pulled or fall on themselves.			
Glass which is 1 metre from floor level or above which doesn't display the British Kitemark logo.	Children- could be cut or injured if glass was smashed.	Glass which is 1 metre from floor level or above has to display the British Kitemark logo. Any such glass failing to comply with this requirement must have a safety film attached.		
Loose floor coverings and/or mats.	Everyone - potential tripping hazard.			
Harmful and/or poisonous houseplants.	Children - could cause skin irritation or poisoning if ingested.			

Unlocked access to dangerous substances or within child's reach (i.e. cleaning products, medication, cosmetics, toiletries, alcohol based products)	Children – risk of choking, overdose or poisoning if ingested.			
Unlocked access to razors or other sharp items or within child's reach.	Children – could swallow and/or cut themselves/others.			
Waste bins not closed, emptied regularly and/or kept clean.	Children – health risk and could pick up inappropriate items.			
Toilet and wash basins not cleaned regularly.	Everyone – could cause ill health via harmful bacteria and germs.			
Not washing hands after using the toilet or changing nappies.	Everyone – could cause ill health via harmful bacteria and germs			

Section 3 – Children Amenities and Well-being

Step 1 What are the hazards?	Step 2 Who might be harmed and how?	Step 3		Step 4 Frequency of checks
		What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	
Large amount of toys on the floor.	Everyone – tripping hazard and potential blocking of emergency routes.			
Inappropriate toys for age range of children.	Children – choking hazard.			

Broken toys, with loose parts which could come off, not in good working condition or have sharp edges.	Children – choking hazard, could cause cuts or injuries.			
Stair gates not in place and/or fastened securely (applicable if caring for babies and toddlers under the age of three).	Babies and toddlers – could fall down the stairs and/or gain access to unsuitable areas.			
Unavailable toilet step for younger children.	Child - could fall getting on or off the toilet.			
Nappy changing area not cleaned after each use.	Everyone – could cause ill health via harmful bacteria and germs.			
Not having separate flannels or towels for each child.	Children – could cause ill health via cross contamination.			
Not having clean bedding for each child.	Children – unhygienic practices and risk of cross contamination.			
Cot bumpers in place.	Child – could cause suffocation or strangulation.			
Bed guards not in place (where applicable).	Children – could fall and injure themselves.			

Bed positioned too close to heating source.	Children – could overheat, get burnt or scald.			
Pendulum light fittings with long length flex above a cot/bed within child’s reach.	Children – risk of electrocution, burns and/or strangulation.			
Incorrect babies sleeping position.	Babies - risk of cot death. Note: Regularly check current guidelines.			
Cot mattresses too soft.	Babies – risk of cot death. Note: Regularly check current guidelines.			

Section 4 – External Premises

Step 1 What are the hazards?	Step 2 Who might be harmed and how?	Step 3		Step 4 Frequency of checks
		What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	
Unlocked gates.	Children - could escape and/or provide unauthorised access.			
Fences/walls not maintained or secure.	Children - could escape and/or provide unauthorised access. Could cause injuries.			
Unlocked access to shed and/or storage area with inappropriate tools, equipment or chemicals.	Children – risk of poisoning, cuts, falling or getting trapped.			

Greenhouse	Children – could cause cuts or other injuries from broken glass.			
Uncovered or unlocked access to ponds or other water features. This includes water butts, empty containers or pots that have collected water.	Children – risk of drowning.			
Broken or uneven patio slabs.	Everyone – tripping hazard.			
Steps in the garden.	Children – risk of falling up or down the steps causing various injuries.			
Washing lines hanging at child's reach.	Children – risk of strangulation.			
Harmful/poisonous plants.	Children - could cause skin irritation or poisoning if digested.			
Compost heaps.	Children – could cause infections from bacteria present and from large heaps potential scalds and burns.			
Outdoor waste bin.	Children – unhygienic, risk of children injuring themselves if climbed upon or climbed into.			

Garden not checked for animal faeces before children start playing.	Children – could cause ill health and in severe cases blindness (toxocara).			
Sandpit not covered and/or sand replaced regularly.	Children – high risks of animals fouling causing ill health.			
Play equipment not maintained and/or securely attached to the ground where necessary.	Children – risk of falling, incurring cuts, bruises, head injuries, broken bones or internal injuries.			

Section 5 - Others				
Step 1 What are the hazards?	Step 2 Who might be harmed and how?	Step 3		Step 4 Frequency of checks
		What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	
Domestic pet's food and/or water bowls accessible to children.	Children – risk of ill health if ingested, choking or drowning.			
Domestic pet not inoculated and/or up-to-date with parasitical treatments i.e. worms/fleas.	Children – risk of ill health.			
No separate area for dogs/reptiles/birds and other potentially dangerous animals	Children – bite injuries/poisoning/infections			
Domestic pet faeces not cleared, from where children are playing Litter trays accessible to children	Children – could contact toxocara and/on ill health			

Drinks not accessible at all times.	Children – risk of dehydration and fainting.			
Spillages (either through water play activities or accidental).	Everyone – could slip and fall.			
First Aid kit not appropriately stocked.	Everyone – delay in administering a treatment.			
Unprepared for children’s allergies/medical requirements.	Children – could cause ill health, anaphylactic shock and/or potential fatality.			
Vapes and/or cigarettes.	Children – could cause ill health if ingested.	No smoking in the house or garden. Items stored out of reach of children.		
Matches and/or lighters.	Everyone – fire hazard, risk of burns and ill health if ingested.			
Button batteries.	Children – could be fatal if swallowed.			
Insufficient safeguarding from inappropriate media content i.e. magazines, computers, etc.	Children – risk of causing psychological damage and coming in contact with individuals with damaging intentions.			

Unsuitable adults having access to children.	Children – risk of safeguarding issue and could cause physical/psychological damage.			
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Section 6 – Outings and Transport

Add specific locations you visit regularly and hazards that have not been included below.

Step 1 What are the hazards?	Step 2 Who might be harmed and how?	Step 3		Step 4 Frequency of checks
		What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	
Open water (i.e. stream, pond, pool, sea, etc.)	Children – drowning.			
No water, food and/or snack available.	Children – could cause dehydration and affect energy levels.			
No access to shade in hot weather.	Children – could cause dehydration, sunburn and/or sunstroke.			
Not applying sun cream of a suitable factor in hot weather.	Children – could cause dehydration, sunburn and/or sunstroke.			
Not wearing suitable clothing and/or footwear for the weather (i.e. sun hat, raincoat, warm coat and hat, etc.)	Children – could cause dehydration, sunburn, sunstroke and/or ill health.			
Not having regular services on your car, valid insurance and/or sufficient fuel for your journey.	Everyone – risk of breakdowns and unsuitable road safety.			

Not having age appropriate car seats/booster and/or not wearing seat belt/harness.	Children – could result in serious injuries or death in case of an accident.			
Buggy/pushchair inappropriately maintained or children not securely strapped in.	Children – unsafe practices could result in decrease children’s safety, risk of being hit by a car.			
Insufficient awareness or incorrect use of road safety practices.	Everyone – decrease safety for all and increase risks of danger which may result in fatality.			
Incorrect contact details for each child stored in your mobile phone or insufficient battery life or credit.	Children – delay in contacting parents or rescue services in case of emergencies.			
Not having effective policies in place i.e. lost child and/or emergency procedure.	Everyone – the lack of awareness may impair prevention or the effective handling of incidents.			

Section 7 – Additional Hazards

Use this section to list any other hazards specific to your premises or routine which may not be included above.

Step 1 What are the hazards?	Step 2 Who might be harmed and how?	Step 3		Step 4 Frequency of checks
		What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	