



Health and Safety Risk Assessment for Work with Children and Families

1. Introduction

This risk assessment outlines the potential health and safety risks associated with working with children and families. It provides measures to mitigate these risks to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all parties involved.

2. Scope

This risk assessment applies to all staff, volunteers, and visitors involved in activities with children and families in various settings such as schools, community centres, and homes.

3. Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

3.1. Physical Environment Hazards

Hazard: Slips, trips, and falls

Risk: Injury from falling over uneven surfaces, clutter, or wet floors.

Control Measures: Regular inspection and maintenance of premises; clear signage for wet floors; ensure walkways are free of obstructions.

Hazard: Fire Safety

Risk: Burns, smoke inhalation, or fatalities from fire.

Control Measures: Regular fire drills; accessible fire exits; working fire alarms and extinguishers; fire safety training for staff.

Hazard: Electrical Safety

Risk: Electrocution from faulty or exposed wiring.

Control Measures: Routine checks of electrical equipment; PAT testing; immediate reporting and repair of faulty equipment.

Hazard: Outdoor Play Equipment

Risk: Injuries from falls or equipment failure.

Control Measures: Regular safety inspections; ensure equipment is age-appropriate and in good repair; supervise children during use.

3.2. Health Hazards

Hazard: Infectious Diseases

Risk: Spread of illnesses such as colds, flu, or COVID-19.

Control Measures: Promote good hygiene practices; provide handwashing facilities and hand sanitizers; follow current public health guidelines.

Hazard: Food Safety

Risk: Food poisoning from improper food handling.

Control Measures: Adhere to food safety standards; ensure proper storage, preparation, and serving of food; staff training in food hygiene.

3.3. Emotional and Psychological Hazards

Hazard: Bullying and Harassment

Risk: Emotional distress and psychological harm.

Control Measures: Implement anti-bullying policies; provide training on recognising and dealing with bullying; establish clear reporting procedures.

Hazard: Stress and Mental Health Issues

Risk: Emotional strain leading to mental health problems.

Control Measures: Provide access to counselling services; create a supportive work environment; promote work-life balance.

3.4. Safeguarding Hazards

Hazard: Abuse and Neglect

Risk: Physical, emotional, or sexual harm to children.

Control Measures: Implement robust safeguarding policies; conduct background checks on staff and volunteers; provide safeguarding training.

Hazard: Inappropriate Behaviour by Staff

Risk: Harm or abuse from staff or volunteers.

Control Measures: Clear code of conduct; regular supervision and appraisal; immediate action on any reports of inappropriate behaviour.

3.5. Transport Hazards

Hazard: Road Traffic Accidents

Risk: Injury or fatality during transportation.

Control Measures: Use reputable transport providers; ensure vehicles are well-maintained and drivers are qualified; use appropriate child restraints.

4. Risk Mitigation and Management

4.1. Training and Awareness

Regular training for staff and volunteers on health and safety practices.

Updates on policies and procedures as required.

4.2. Policies and Procedures

Comprehensive health and safety policies.

Regular reviews and updates of risk assessments.

4.3. Supervision and Monitoring

Continuous supervision of activities involving children.

Regular health and safety audits.

5. Emergency Procedures

Clearly defined emergency procedures.

Regular drills and training sessions.

Easily accessible emergency contact information.

6. Review and Revision

Regular review of risk assessment at least annually or when significant changes occur.

Involvement of staff in the review process to ensure practical implementation.