Bristol Childminding Network

The heart of quality home-based childcare

Childhood Injury Risk Assessment Sheet for Childminders



The Early Years Foundation Stage 2017 requires providers to 'demonstrate how they are managing risks….identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis… and identify how the risks will be removed or minimised (EYFS page 31, 3.64).

A lot of what children do has risk attached to it, but risks can be controlled, managed and reduced. In your work you will be mentally risk- assessing on an on-going, daily basis; for example before you start work in the morning you will scan your home, during activities and in response to what children are actually doing at any time you will be considering the risks and taking protective action as necessary; but **written** risk assessments will help you think things through systematically, to plan a safer environment.
In the event of a serious accident childminders should inform Ofsted (EYFS page 34, 3.77). When Ofsted investigate a serious accident, typically they look at the childminder's written risk assessment because it provides evidence of whether or not the hazard had originally been recognised and what, if anything, the childminder had originally done to reduce that risk. After an accident or incident a childminder should revisit the risk assessment and add what they have done to ensure that the accident does not happen again – see the extra column Step 3.

Nearly all children sustain minor injuries while growing up. It would be counterproductive to try to prevent all activity that has a risk of minor injury, as children need to learn to manage risk themselves. Children should be given the freedom to explore ideas and concepts and develop their skills through physical play without feeling stifled and under stimulated. As the childminder you are there to make sure that they can achieve this through the necessary supervision and support. As children grow up, so the risks they encounter will change. As a childminder you will be aware of how hazards and types of preventable injury tend to be linked to the stage of child development : **0-5 year old children sustain most preventable injuries when at home, the main causes of serious injuries are falls, poisoning and burns and scalds**. For further reference you might want to look at booklet on this subject called "*Accidents and Child Development*" by the Child Accident Prevention Trust.

Below is a guideline proforma created by the Childminding Support Team, based on the Health and Safety Executive 5 step risk assessment. You can create your own risk assessment OR simply leave blank the bits of this proforma which do not apply to your home and garden, adding any additional hazards that are applicable to your own situation in the blank boxes.
If you provide overnight care you will need to conduct an additional risk assessment for this.

Updated Sept 2017

Kitchen				
Step 1 **What are the hazards?**	**Step 2** **Who might be harmed and how?**	**Step 3** **What are you already doing/ have done?**	**Step 3.** **What further action did you take?**	**Step 4** **Frequency of checks**
Spot hazards by walking around your setting and looking for what could be a danger. Get down on your hands and knees to see your setting from the child's point of view.	***Write in this column what accident could happen. Consider the likelihood of it happening and whether the injury is likely to be minor or serious injury.***	***List what you have already put in place or what you are going to do to remove or minimize the hazard. Make sure you put the date when you completed the action.***	***Use this column if you realised you could improve on an aspect of safety OR you had to review the previous column following a specific incident or accident (put a date)***	***Indicate here how often you should check.*** • ***Once, because the risk has been completely removed?*** • ***Before children arrive?*** • ***Ongoing throughout the day?*** • ***Weekly?*** • ***Monthly?***
Oven and hob	Children - danger of burning or scalding themselves.			
Children using high chairs not strapped in	Falls			
Baby walkers in use	Falls	*Baby walkers should not be used because……*		
Overhanging leads and pan handles	Children - danger of burning or scalding themselves.			
No safety catches on cupboards and drawers that are in reach of children	Children - Access to dangerous substances including cleaning products, dishwasher tablets plastic bags, knives and alcohol. Children also in danger of trapping fingers.			
Fire Blanket not wall mounted and or placed inappropriately. *Please note it is not mandatory to have a fire blanket but to have fire detection equipment.*	Everyone - risk of fire.			

Date of risk assessment: ……..
Step 5 Review date: ……
Review your assessment at least annually to make sure you are still managing hazards effectively.
If there is a significant change in your setting, such as new equipment or adverse weather conditions, remember to check your risk assessment and, where necessary, amend it or add to it.

Kitchen continued				
Step 1 **What are the hazards?**	**Step 2** **Who might be harmed and how?**	**Step 3** **What are you already doing?**	**What further action is necessary?**	**Step 4** **Frequency of checks**
Hazardous products not stored above head height	Children - access to dangerous substances including cleaning products, dishwasher tablets plastic bags, knives and alcohol.			
Refrigerator not kept between 4-5˚ C and the freezer not at ‒18˚C	Everyone - incorrect storage of food which could lead to ill health			
Food stored inappropriately in the fridge i.e raw meat stored above uncovered food items.	Everyone - cross contamination which could lead to food poisoning or allergic reaction			
Not washing hands before the preparation of food and after handling raw meat	Everyone - cross contamination which could lead to ill health			
Food preparation surfaces and chopping boards not cleaned thoroughly	Everyone - cross contamination which could lead to food poisoning or allergic reaction			
Packed lunches inappropriately stored	Children - incorrect storage of food which could lead to ill health			
Dish cloths, tea towels and mop heads not cleaned and changed regularly	Everyone - ill health as they harbour germs and bacteria.			
Rubbish bins not closed or emptied regularly and kept clean.	Children may have access to sharp edges, hazardous waste products or mouldy food Everyone - health risk and children having access to inappropriate items.			

Date of risk assessment: ……..

Step 5 Review date: ……

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Kitchen continued				
Step 1 **What are the hazards?**	**Step 2** **Who might be harmed and how?**	**Step 3** **What are you already doing?**	**What further action is necessary?**	**Step 4** **Frequency of checks**
Not reheating food correctly or cooking food to the correct temperature	Everyone - harmful bacteria remains in the food causing food poisoning.			
Floor not kept clean	Children are particularly at risk of contamination and poisoning.			
Floor not kept clean	Children – if small objects are left within reach it is natural for young children to eat them causing poisoning/ choking risk and risk of ill health.			
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 due to food possibly being used after 'use by date' causing ill health			
Reheating babies bottles	Babies - ill health if bottles are not sterilised Babies - scalding. Heating in microwave ovens can heat milk unevenly.			
Spillages either through water play activities or accidental	Everyone - slips and falls			
Children gaining access to the kitchen	Adults – adults trip over children (and pets) resulting in falls or spillages of sometimes very hot items.			
Children gaining access to the kitchen	Children – climbing and falling (if left unsupervised)			

Date of risk assessment: ……..

Step 5 Review date: ……

Review your assessment at least annually to make sure you are still managing hazards effectively.

If there is a significant change in your setting, such as new equipment or adverse weather conditions, remember to check your risk assessment and, where necessary, amend it or add to it.

Living room/dining room including play area				
Step 1 **What are the hazards?**	**Step 2** **Who might be harmed and how?**	**Step 3** **What are you already doing?**	**What further action is necessary?**	**Step 4** **Frequency of checks**
Climbing routes (for example floor sofa seat, sofa back, window ledge, curtain, and bookshelf).	Children love to climb! But may not be able to get down again. Risk of falling.			
Hot drinks in the home	Children - Scalding.			
Fireguards not in place or fitted securely	Children - burning themselves or falling against the hearth			
Plug sockets *13-amp power sockets made to BS 1363 incorporate a shutter mechanism, which prevents inappropriate access to the live connectors. RoSPA therefore does not consider it necessary to recommend the use of socket covers* Monitor children around plug sockets to prevent inappropriate use.	Children - possible electrocution			
Overloaded plug sockets	All - fire hazard, trip hazard, electrocution hazard			
Trailing wires	Children could pull on these or chew on the wires causing electrocution			
Having access to plug in air fresheners or other types of air fresheners including pot pourri	Children at risk of poisoning / allergic reactions or potential choking hazard			
Cords trailing from blinds or curtains	Children - possibility of hanging/strangulation			

Date of risk assessment: ……..
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If there is a significant change in your setting, such as new equipment or adverse weather conditions, remember to check your risk assessment and, where necessary, amend it or add to it.

Living room/dining room including play area continued				
Step 1 **What are the hazards?**	**Step 2** **Who might be harmed and how?**	**Step 3** **What are you already doing?**	**What further action is necessary?**	**Step 4** **Frequency of checks**
Glass in the home 1 metre from floor level not displaying the British Kite mark logo. Safety film needs to be attached to the glass.	Children - cuts if glass /window was smashed			
Windows can open wider than 4 inches or 10 cms.	Children could fall out, climb out or unauthorised access of premises			
Toys left on the floor / cluttered untidy floor	Everyone - tripping hazard and potential blocking of escape routes			
Inappropriate toys for ages of the children	Children – various, including choking hazards			
Toys that are broken, have sharp edges, or small detachable parts	Children - could cause cuts or injuries Could cause a choking hazard			
Cluttered layout of the furniture	Children could trip and fall against furniture if there is not enough space for their play			
Not fixing tall cupboards, bookcases to the wall.	Everyone (particularly children) – cupboards, bookcases or falling on top of yourselves			
Radiators becoming too hot (safe temperature is between 19-21˚ C)	Everyone - risk of burning			
Room temperature either too hot or cold	Children as they do not regulate their own body temperatures, as a result may become ill			

Date of risk assessment: ……..

Step 5 Review date: ……

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If there is a significant change in your setting, such as new equipment or adverse weather conditions, remember to check your risk assessment and, where necessary, amend it or add to it.

Living room/dining room including play area continued				
Step 1 **What are the hazards?**	**Step 2** **Who might be harmed and how?**	**Step 3** **What are you already doing?**	**What further action is necessary?**	**Step 4** **Frequency of checks**
Tablecloth overhanging edge of Table	Children could pull on this resulting in heavy or hot objects falling on them			
Loose floor coverings/mats	Potential tripping hazard for all			
Potentially harmful houseplants	Children could cause skin irritation or poisoning if ingested			
Drinks near electrical items	Everyone - electrocution			
Not having a well-stocked first Aid kit	Everyone – delay in the administering treatment			
Items in first aid kit out of date	Everyone – ineffective			
Cigarette smoke	Childminders are in breach of requirements to smoke whilst childminding. Risk of a multitude of adverse health effects from tobacco smoke.			
Alcohol	Children – alcoholic poisoning Adults – intoxicated – children insufficiently supervised – leading to increased risk of injury for children and prosecution of adults.			

Date of risk assessment: ……..

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Hall and stairs				
Step 1 **What are the hazards?**	**Step 2** **Who might be harmed and how?**	**Step 3** **What are you already doing?**	**What further action is necessary?**	**Step 4** **Frequency of checks**
Stair gates not in place and fastened securely	Babies and toddlers - falling down the stairs, and /or gaining access to inappropriate areas			
Stair gates relied upon for providing security to children over 24 months	Children over 24 months. Stair gates are not usually effective for children older than 24 months.			
Front door	Children could leave or unauthorised access of premises			
Front door locked and keys are not kept in easy reach for adult	Everyone - escape route can not be accessed easily / quickly			
Door bolts within a child's reach	Adults could be locked out of the premises			
Smoke detectors not checked weekly or replacement batteries not accessible	Everyone - high risk of fire being undetected. Risk of smoke inhalation or fatality			
Plug sockets – see earlier advice	Children - possible electrocution			
Loose rugs/doormats	Potential tripping hazard for all			
Free hanging/standing full length mirrors not fixed securely to walls	Children could pull down/on top of themselves causing cuts and other injuries			
Cupboard under the stairs is accessible and may contain hazardous items	Children – various.			
Stairs have clutter left lying on them	All - Trip hazard			

Date of risk assessment: ……..

Step 5 Review date: ……

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Bathroom and toilet				
Step 1 **What are the hazards?**	**Step 2** **Who might be harmed and how?**	**Step 3** **What are you already doing?**	**What further action is necessary?**	**Step 4** **Frequency of checks**
Having access to cleaning products	Children - risk of poisoning			
Having access to razors or other sharp or dangerous materials	Children - cutting themselves			
Waste bin not securely closed or emptied regularly	Children - pick up infection, sharps, etc.			
Toilet and wash basins not cleaned regularly	Everyone - harmful bacteria and germs causing ill health			
Not washing hands after using the toilet or changing nappies	Everyone - harmful bacteria and germs causing ill health			
Step not available for younger children if appropriate	Child could fall getting on or off the toilet			
Nappy changing area not cleaned after each use.	Everyone - harmful bacteria and germs causing ill health			
Water too hot	Everyone - risk of burns and scolds			
Not having separate flannels or towels	Children - cross contamination causing ill health			
Unlocked medicine cabinet within children's reach	Children – overdosing/poisoning – potential fatality			
Easy access for younger children to the bathroom without supervision	Toilets are a drowning hazard, especially for children under three			
Lock to low on bathroom door	Children may lock themselves inside the bathroom			

Date of risk assessment: ……..

Step 5 Review date: ……

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Sleeping area				
Step 1 **What are the hazards?**	**Step 2** **Who might be harmed and how?**	**Step 3** **What are you already doing?**	**What further action is necessary?**	**Step 4** **Frequency of checks**
Cords trailing from blinds or curtains	Children- possibility of hanging/strangulation			
Strings bags or dressing gown belts positioned too close or on the cot	Children- possibility of hanging/strangulation			
Pendulum light fittings with long length flex, above a cot/bed within children's reach	Children – electrocution/burns/strangulation – potential fatality.			
Plug sockets – see earlier advice	Children - possible electrocution			
Overloaded plug sockets	Everyone - fire hazard			
Trailing wires	Children could pull on these or chew on the wires causing electrocution			
Having access to plug in air fresheners or other types of air fresheners including pot pourri	Children at risk of poisoning / allergic reactions or potential choking hazard			
Glass in the home 1 metre from floor level not displaying the British Kite mark logo. Safety film needs to be attached to the glass.	Children - cuts if glass /window was smashed			
Windows can be opened wider than 10cms or 4 inches	Children could fall out, climb out or unauthorised access of premises			
Not having clean bedding for individual children	Children - infection			
Radiators becoming too hot (Safe temperature is between 19-21˚ C)	Everyone - risk of burning			

Date of risk assessment: ……..

Step 5 Review date: ……

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If there is a significant change in your setting, such as new equipment or adverse weather conditions, remember to check your risk assessment and, where necessary, amend it or add to it.

Sleeping area continued				
Step 1 **What are the hazards?**	**Step 2** **Who might be harmed and how?**	**Step 3** **What are you already doing?**	**What further action is necessary?**	**Step 4** **Frequency of checks**
Bed positioned too close to heat source	Children – burns/scalding			
Cot Bumpers	Child - strangulation			
Babies sleeping position	Potential cot death – check regularly for current guidelines – check online with lullaby trust			
Cot mattresses	Potential cot death – check regularly for current guidelines – check online with lullaby trust			
Not having bed guards where appropriate	Children falling and injuring themselves			
Checking children infrequently	Stressed children, children climbing out and falling, vomiting children, children's limbs being trapped			
Playing on bunk beds	Children fall from the top bunk and hit the floor or get limbs caught in the frame or in the ladder on the way down.			
Nappy sacks left within reach of children	Choking			
Access to dangerous substances , including medication, cosmetics, deodorants, toiletries and alcohol based products	Children - risk of choking and /or poisoning			

Date of risk assessment: ……..

Step 5 Review date: ……

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Garden				
Step 1 **What are the hazards?**	**Step 2** **Who might be harmed and how?**	**Step 3** **What are you already doing?**	**What further action is necessary?**	**Step 4** **Frequency of checks**
Shed/storage area is unlocked and accessible	Children - get access to tools/equipment/chemicals risk creating risk of poisoning, cuts, falling or getting trapped			
Unlocked gates	Children could escape or unauthorised access gained			
Fences / walls not maintained or secure	Children could escape or an injury could incur			
Steps in the garden	Children - risk of falling up or down the steps injuring themselves			
Outside play equipment not maintained or securely attached to the ground where necessary	Children - risk of falling incurring cuts, bruises, head injuries, broken bones or internal injuries			
Trampolines	Numerous hazards - inappropriate for children under 6. Follow manufacturers' guidelines.			
Outside play equipment inappropriately positioned	Children – climbing over perimeter wall, falling onto/into wall/fence or other items			
Sandpits not covered or replaced regularly	Children - high risks of animals fouling causing ill health			
Garden not checked for animal faeces before children start playing	Children - ill health and in severe cases blindness (toxocara)			
Washing lines hanging in reach of children	Children - risk of strangulation			

Date of risk assessment: ……..

Step 5 Review date: ……

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If there is a significant change in your setting, such as new equipment or adverse weather conditions, remember to check your risk assessment and, where necessary, amend it or add to it.

Garden continued				
Step 1 **What are the hazards?**	**Step 2** **Who might be harmed and how?**	**Step 3** **What are you already doing?**	**What further action is necessary?**	**Step 4** **Frequency of checks**
Ponds and other water features not covered. Water buts and empty containers/pots that have collected water.	Risk of children drowning			
Broken or uneven patio slabs	Everyone - tripping hazard			
Insufficient supervision of children	Children – all potential injuries			
Harmful plants	If in reach of children could cause skin irritation or poisoning if digested.			
Food waste disposal bins	Children – infections from bacteria present			
Compost heaps	Children – infections from bacteria present and from large heaps potential scalds and burns			
General Waste bins	Children – unhygienic, risk of children injuring themselves if climbed upon on climbed into			
Greenhouse	Children – potential cuts from broken glass			
Slug pellets (look like sweets)	Children - poisoning			
Garden tools, chemicals, rope/ twine etc left within reach of children	Various			

Date of risk assessment: ……..

Step 5 Review date: ……

Review your assessment at least annually to make sure you are still managing hazards effectively.

If there is a significant change in your setting, such as new equipment or adverse weather conditions, remember to check your risk assessment and, where necessary, amend it or add to it.

Outings, Transport and Walking

Please note that these are generalised risk assessments and you will need to add specific locations that you visit regularly as well as hazards that have not been included

Step 1 What are the hazards?	Step 2 Who might be harmed and how?	Step 3 What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	Step 4 Frequency of checks
Open water i.e lakes, rivers, streams and ponds	Children - drowning			
No shade in warm weather	Children – burning and or dehydration			
No drinks available	Children –dehydration			
Not wearing a sun hat or sun cream of a suitable factor in hot weather	Children – burning and or dehydration			
Not having suitable clothing for the weather, Warm coat in colder weathers, raincoat and Wellingtons or sensible shoes	Children – ill health			
No food /snack available	Children - hypoglycaemia, loss of concentration poor/random behaviour			
Not having the correct telephone numbers of each child stored in your mobile, which has a full charge as well as credit or this information carried on you. Keeping change for emergency telephone use.	Children – delay in contacting parents or emergency services in case of injury/incidents			
Not having a travel first aid kit or replacing contents	Children – delay in administering first aid			
Insufficient supervision	Various			
Not having policies in place i.e lost child and emergency procedure	Everyone – lack of awareness in how to prevent incidents or how to handle incident effectively			

Date of risk assessment: ……..

Step 5 Review date: ……

Review your assessment at least annually to make sure you are still managing hazards effectively.

If there is a significant change in your setting, such as new equipment or adverse weather conditions, remember to check your risk assessment and, where necessary, amend it or add to it.

Outings, Transport and Walking continued				
Step 1 **What are the hazards?**	**Step 2** **Who might be harmed and how?**	**Step 3** **What are you already doing?**	**What further action is necessary?**	**Step 4** **Frequency of checks**
Car: Not having sufficient fuel for journey, up to date Insurance, tax or MOT	Everyone – breakdown and children's safety			
Not having age appropriate car seats or booster cushions and not wearing seat belt or harness	Everyone –children's safety			
Walking: Buggy/pushchair not maintained or children not securely strapped in. Reins not used appropriately. Insufficient understanding of road safety. Modelling of unsafe crossing procedures or insufficient modelling of safe crossing procedure.	Everyone –children's safety, risk of being knocked over by a car			
Not having written permission from parents for applying sun cream, travel in cars or on public transport and taking photographs	Childminder – risk of complaint / EYFS and Ofsted Requirement			
Not having written permission from parents for emergency medical advice or treatment	Children – delay in treatment – potential health implications Childminder – risk of complaint / EYFS and Ofsted Requirement			

Date of risk assessment: ……..

Step 5 Review date: ……

Review your assessment at least annually to make sure you are still managing hazards effectively.

If there is a significant change in your setting, such as new equipment or adverse weather conditions, remember to check your risk assessment and, where necessary, amend it or add to it.

Outings, Transport and Walking

Please add specific locations that you visit regularly as well as hazards that have not been included. Use one page per outing/location. This page can be photocopied.

Please note, some venues/locations which you visit with children may have written risk assessments. Do ask for a copy.

Name of place:

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

Date of risk assessment: ……..

Step 5 Review date: ……

Review your assessment at least annually to make sure you are still managing hazards effectively.

If there is a significant change in your setting, such as new equipment or adverse weather conditions, remember to check your risk assessment and, where necessary, amend it or add to it.

Pets				
Step 1 **What are the hazards?**	**Step 2** **Who might be harmed and how?**	**Step 3** **What are you already doing?**	**What further action is necessary?**	**Step 4** **Frequency of checks**
Food/water bowls accessible to children	Children - drowning/choking/general ill health			
Pets not inoculated, up-to-date with parasitical treatments i.e. worms/fleas	Children – ill health			
Pet excreta not cleared, from where children are playing Litter trays accessible to children	Children – toxocara and general ill health			
No separate area for dogs/reptiles/birds and other potentially dangerous animals	Children – bite injuries/poisoning/infections			
Setting harbours mites, ticks, fleas	Bites			

Date of risk assessment: ……..

Step 5 Review date: ……

Review your assessment at least annually to make sure you are still managing hazards effectively.

If there is a significant change in your setting, such as new equipment or adverse weather conditions, remember to check your risk assessment and, where necessary, amend it or add to it.

Additional Hazards				
Step 1 **What are the hazards?**	**Step 2** **Who might be harmed and how?**	**Step 3** **What are you already doing?**	**What further action is necessary?**	**Step 4** **Frequency of checks**
Cigarettes/matches/lighters accessible to children	Everyone – fire hazard/burns Children – ill health if ingested			
Being unaware of both national emergency plans e.g. gas leaks, and local emergency plans in relation to e.g. nearby chemical plants etc	Everyone – potential injury/fatalities			
Breakable ornaments within reach of children	Children – potential cuts/injuries			
Insufficient safeguarding of children from inappropriate media content e.g. magazines/computers	Children - potential psychological damage and coming into contact with unsuitable adults who have damaging intentions towards them			
Unsuitable adults having access to children	Physical/psychological damage			
Unprepared for children's allergies/medical requirements	Children – anaphylactic shock, potential fatality/ill health			
Water not accessible at all times	Children - dehydration			

Date of risk assessment: ……..

Step 5 Review date: ……

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