

## Principles of Risk Assessment.

### What is it?

The Management of Health and Safety at work Regulations 1999 outline the importance of risk assessment.

A risk assessment is identifying things which could go wrong so that action can be taken before they do go wrong.

You are required to have in place a risk assessment as part of the EYFS (Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage page 33). This enables the setting to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable that hazards to the children both indoors and outdoors are kept to a minimum.

**Fire Risk Assessment.** Required by law to ensure people and your setting is safe from fire.

For more information see:-

Fire Safety Factsheet.

### **Manual Handling.**

You will need to assess and reduce the risks associated with manual handling.

For more information see:-

Manual Handling Factsheet.

### **Risk Assessment should:**

Involve identifying the **Hazards** present in any working environment or arising from work activities, and

Evaluating the extent of the **risks** involved, taking into account the existing precautions and their effectiveness.

### **Key Definitions.**

#### **Hazard.**

Something with the potential to cause harm

- Dangerous substance
- A knife
- Excessive noise

- A piece of electrical equipment

### **Risk.**

The likelihood that someone will be harmed by the hazard

- being burnt by a chemical
- going deaf
- being cut
- receiving an electrical shock.

### **Risk Assessment**

The identification of hazards, the calculation of risk and the reduction of that risk either completely or to an acceptable level. There are five steps to carrying out a risk assessment.

1. Identify Hazards
2. Identify those who may be harmed
3. Evaluate risk by considering existing precautions
4. Record findings
5. Review and revise as necessary

Further information can be found in the booklet

5 steps to Risk Assessment [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)