

RISK ASSESSMENT SHEET FOR REGISTERED CHILDMINDERS

KITCHEN				
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
Spot hazards by: walking around your setting; Look for what could be a danger		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 'so far as is reasonably practicable'. An easy way of doing this is to compare what you are already doing with good practice. 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 it is a safe environment for the children? Before children arrive? Ongoing throughout the day? Weekly? Monthly?
Oven and hob	Children – danger of burning or scalding themselves.	Cooker guard in place – any alternative safety process needs to be detailed here		
Overhanging leads and pan handles	Children – danger of burning or scalding themselves.			
No safety catches on cupboards and drawers	Children – Access to dangerous substances including cleaning products, plastic bags, knives and alcohol. Children also in danger of trapping fingers.	All dangerous substances are out of reach as safety catches are a deterrent only.	Ensure all dangerous substances are out of reach.	
Fire Blanket not wall mounted and or placed inappropriately				

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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 and uncovered food items.	Everyone – Cross contamination which could lead to ill health			
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 ill health			
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.	Everyone – health risk and children having access to inappropriate items.			

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Not reheating food correctly or cooking food to the correct temperature	Everyone – harmful bacteria remains in the food causing ill health through food poisoning.			
Floor not kept clean.	Unhygienic, especially crawling babies and toddlers			
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 after 'use by date' causing ill health			
Spillages either through water play activities or accidental	Everyone – slips and falls			
Not having an appropriately stocked First Aid kit	Everyone – delay in the administering treatment			
Fireguards not in place or fitted securely	Children – burning themselves or falling against the hearth			
Plug sockets not covered	Children – possible electrocution			
Overloaded plug sockets	All – fire hazards			

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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
Fireguards not in place or fitted securely	Children – burning themselves or falling against the hearth			
Plug sockets not covered	Children – possible electrocution			
Overloaded plug sockets	All – fire hazards			
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			
If there is glass in the home 1 metre from floor level which doesn't display the British Kite mark logo then safety film needs to be attached to the glass.	Children- cuts if glass/window was smashed			

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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
Openings on windows	Children could fall out, climb out or unauthorised access of premises			
Not fixing tall cupboards or bookcases to the wall	Everyone – cupboards or bookcases falling on top of yourselves			
Radiators becoming too hot (Safe temperature is between 19-21° C)	Everyone – risk of burning			
Temperature either too hot or cold	Children as they do not regulate their own body temperatures, as a result may become ill			
Layout of the furniture	Children could trip and fall against furniture if there is not enough space for their play			
Tablecloth on Table	Children could pull on this resulting in heavy or hot objects falling on them			
Not monitoring amount of toys on floor	Everyone – tripping hazard and potential blocking of escape routes			
Inappropriate toys for ages of the children	Children – choking hazard			

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Toys that are broken or have sharp edges. This also includes checking to make sure that the toy is still in good working order and no loose parts to come off.	Children – could cause cuts or injuries Could cause a choking hazard			
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			
Alcohol	Children – alcoholic poisoning Adults – intoxicated – children insufficiently supervised – leading to accident/incidents			

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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?	Step 3 What further action is necessary?	Step 4 Frequency of checks
Stair gates not in place and fastened securely	Babies and toddlers through falling down the stairs, and /or gaining access to inappropriate areas			
Front door	Children could leave or there may be unauthorised access of premises			
Front door locked and keys are not kept in easy reach for adult	Everyone – escape route cannot be accessed easily / quickly			
Smoke detectors not checked regularly or replacement batteries not accessible	Everyone – high risk of fire being undetected. Risk of smoke inhalation or fatality.			
Bolts within a child's reach	Adults could be locked out of the premises			
Loose rugs/doormats	Potential tripping hazard for all			
Wall Mounted frames	Potential head/body injury/cuts due to children pulling down the item			

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Free hanging/standing full length mirrors	Children could pull down/on top of themselves causing cuts and other injuries			

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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 material	Children – cutting themselves			
Waste bin not securely closed or emptied regularly	Children – pick up infection, sharps injuries?			
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 scalding			
Not having separate flannels or towels	Children – cross contamination causing ill health			
Unlocked medicine cabinet within children’s reach	Children – overdosing/ poisoning – potential fatality			

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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
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			
If there is glass in the home 1 metre from floor level which doesn't display the British Kite mark logo then safety film needs to be attached to the glass	Children – cuts if glass /window was smashed			
Opening on windows	Children could fall out, climb out or unauthorised access of premises			

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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 having clean bedding for individual children	Children – unhygienic practices and cross contamination			
Radiators becoming too hot (Safe temperature is between 19-21° C)	Everyone – risk of burning			
Access to dangerous substances, including medication, cosmetics, deodorants, toiletries and alcohol based products	Children – risk of choking and / or poisoning			
Cot Bumpers	Child – strangulation			
Babies sleeping position	Potential cot death – check regularly for current guidelines			
Cot mattresses	Potential cot death – check regularly for current guidelines			
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			
Bed positioned too close to heating implement	Children – burns/scalding			

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Pendulum light fittings with long length flex, above a cot/bed within children's reach	Children- electrocution/burns/strangulation – potential fatality.			

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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- where children could get access to inappropriate tools/equipment/chemicals	Children – 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			
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			

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Ponds and other water features not covered. Water butts 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 or climbed into			
Greenhouse	Children – potential cuts from broken glass			

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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?	Step 4 Frequency of checks
Open water i.e. streams, ponds and sea	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 – hungry, energy levels slowing		

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Not having the correct telephone numbers of each child stored in your mobile phone, which has a full charge as well as credit and this information carried on you. Keeping change for emergency telephone use	Children – delay in contacting parents or emergency services in case of accidents/ incidents			
Not having a travel first aid kit or replacing contents	Children – delay in administering first aid			
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 Risk of complaint			
Car: Not having sufficient fuel for journey, up to date Insurance, tax or regular service	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 risk of being knocked over by a car			

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Walking; Buggy/pushchair maintained and children securely strapped in. Reins used as appropriate. Understanding of road safety and modelling correct crossing procedures and appropriate places to cross	Everyone – children’s safety, risk of being knocked over by a car			
Not having written permission from parent for applying sun cream, travel in cars or on public transport and taking photographs	Not meeting, Requirement of Registration and Risk of Complaint Non-compliance with other legislation			
Not having written permission from parents for gaining Emergency Medical Advice or treatment	Children – delay in treatment – potential health implications. Not meeting, Requirement of Registration			

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Outings, Transport and walking

Please add specific locations that you visit regularly as well as hazards that have not been included

Please note, some providers have written risk assessments available, a copy may be attached here.

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

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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
Pets 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	Children – toxocara and general ill health			
Litter trays accessible to children				
No separate area for dogs/reptiles/birds and other potentially dangerous animals	Children – bite injuries/ poisoning/infections			

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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	No smoking in the house or garden		
Breakable ornaments within reach of children	Children – potential cuts/injuries			
Insufficient safeguarding of children from inappropriate media content i.e. 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	Children – could be a safeguarding issue Physical/psychological damage			
Unprepared for children's allergies/medical requirements	Children – anaphylactic shock, potential fatality/ill health			
Drinks not accessible at all times	Children – dehydration			
Button batteries	Children – if swallowed possible death			