

3. Safety & suitability of premises, environment and equipment

3.4 Risk assessment

Reviewed: September 2026
Next Review Date: September 2027

Table of Contents

Policy statement..... 2

3.4.1 Miss B's Nursery's approach to and methodology for risk assessment..... 3

3.4 Risk assessment

Policy statement

We have a separate Risk Assessments folder which contains full details of all our risk assessments. Our formal risk assessment has been carried out for reasons of ensuring a safe and secure environment in which to work and play, and also to discharge Miss B's Nursery legal obligations under:

- The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2023
- The Management and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992
- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992

Within the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework** published by the **UK Department for Education**. It imposes obligations on providers under section 3 – The Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements.

Section 3.64 under Risk Assessment requires that:

“Providers must ensure that they take all reasonable steps to ensure staff and children in their care are not exposed to risks and must be able to demonstrate how they are managing risks. Providers must determine where it is helpful to make some written risk assessments in relation to specific issues, to inform staff practice, and to demonstrate how they are managing risks if asked by parents and/or carers or inspectors. Risk assessments should identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis, when and by whom those aspects will be checked, and how the risk will be removed or minimised.”

Section 3.65 on Outings requires that:

“Children must be kept safe while on outings. [the previous (September 2012) edition of the Statutory Framework stated that “providers must obtain written parental permission for children to take part in outings.” – but this requirement was removed in the September 2014 edition, although we still adhere to it] Providers must assess the risks or hazards which may arise for the children, and must identify the steps to be taken to remove, minimize and manage those risks and hazards. The risk assessment must include consideration of adult-to-child ratios. The risk assessment does not necessarily need to be in writing: this is for the providers to judge.”

There are further obligations under Sections 3.54 and 3.55 related to the safety and suitability of the premises, environment, and equipment.

3. Safety & suitability of premises, environment and equipment

3.4.1 Miss B's Nursery's approach to and methodology for risk assessment

Our approach to risk assessment is based on the widely used method of defining and describing hazards, making judgements about the consequences of such hazards in terms of a quantitative assessment of the associated risk(s) and then putting into place control measures to eliminate or mitigate the risk(s).

In our setting and immediate environs, a hazard is anything, person, circumstance, or set of circumstances or events that has the potential to cause injury or harm to children and adults. Thus, a hazard in the context of our setting is much broader than that normally encountered in "grown-up" workplaces where things are hazardous to health because of their intrinsic dangerous properties (such as electricity, sharp tools, fire, etc.)

Also, we review the potential of the hazard to cause injury and/or **harm** (by harm – as distinct from physical injury – we are guided by the definition set out in the Children's Act 1989: harm means "ill-treatment or the impairment of health or development"). So not only do we describe the hazard, but we also define the potential consequences stemming from it.

The risk(s) associated with the defined hazard is the likelihood (or probability) of the hazard manifesting itself into injury or harm. We make a quantitative judgement on such likelihood by assigning it a numerical rating from 1 (Highly unlikely) to 5 (Almost certain), **considering the control measures we already have in place to mitigate the risk.**

In the next stage of the risk assessment, we consider the possible injury or harm associated with the hazard and make a quantitative judgment on its severity by assigning it a numerical rating from 1 (Minor injury or harm) to 5 (Disability/mortality).

| Rating | Likelihood (L) | Severity (S) |
|--------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Highly unlikely | Minor injury or harm |
| 2 | Unlikely | Injury or harm |
| 3 | Likely | Reportable injury |
| 4 | Very Likely | Serious injury |
| 5 | Almost certain | Disability/Mortality |

We then multiply these two ratings (likelihood and severity) to derive a "Risk Rating" – this will have a numerical value from 1 to 25. Within this range, we define three sub-categories: Low (<9), Medium (9 to 15) and High (>15). The higher two categories are colour coded as shown:

| | | |
|--|------------------|-------------|
| Risk Rating (RR) = Likelihood (L) x Severity (S) | | |
| Low = < 9 | Medium = 9 to 15 | High = > 15 |

3. Safety & suitability of premises, environment and equipment

Risk ratings in the low range and just into the medium categories, where we cannot eliminate the risk, are tolerated, especially when set against the benefits of the associated learning activity/experience. However, risk ratings in the high category (of which none has yet been established) would be unacceptable and would result in a shut-down of the activities associated with them.

This methodical approach has been carried out for anything with which the children in our care may come into contact in our setting and its immediate environs by putting activities or parts of our location under a "Risk Focus". The detailed risk assessment sheets for each hazard are filed in our separate risk file/folder.
