

## **Health and Safety in Children's Centres**

### **Do I need a Health and Safety policy?**

*Yes. If you employ 5 or more people you will need to have a health and safety policy in place. However, if you are located on a school site and the school is your lead agency their policy will cover many of the arrangements for health and safety on site and can be adopted by the Centre. However, there may still be a need for you to produce a local policy to identify the arrangements particular to your organisation.*

### **What risk assessments should I have in place?**

*A risk assessment is needed for any activity and circumstance in which there is a significant hazard. There is a bank of generic risk assessments available from the link below. These assessments can be adapted to the specific circumstances of your Centre.*

[Risk Assessments](#)

### **What health and safety training is necessary?**

*Staff should receive relevant health and safety training. This could include first aid; risk assessment; personal safety; fire risk assessment; management of health and safety;*

[Training](#)

### **What health and safety issues do I need to cover in the induction process?**

*All new staff should receive health and safety induction to the site and local procedures to be followed. An induction checklist can be downloaded from the link below. It is also useful for visitors to be given a brief summary of the health and safety arrangements of the premises i.e. who the first aiders are; fire evacuation procedure etc*

[Induction](#)

### **What are the safety issues with outdoor play areas?**

*The centre will need to ensure that the outside play areas are safe. This will mean checking the areas are secure, boundaries and fences are in a good state of repair and any equipment is in good condition. Guidance and checklist are available which can be adapted for Children's Centre use.*

[Outdoor play equipment guidance](#)

*Risk assessments for outdoor play are also available from the Grid.*

### **Are there any food hygiene issues – how do I comply?**

*Food hygiene is important if any food is to be handled, prepared and eaten on site. Guidance in basic food hygiene is available on the link below. This guidance should be adequate for most instances in Children's Centres.*

[Food hygiene](#)