

Overall Approach to Risk Assessment in Children

Policy Owner: Director of Communities/SLT	Policy Developer: Head of Family & Children's Services/AA
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The current version of any policy, procedure or guideline is the version held in the Knowledge Library on Workplace. It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that they are following the current version.

Overall Approach to Risk Assessment in Children’s Services

Considerations from the legal team:

YMCATGG as an employer is accountable for health and safety and therefore cannot delegate health and safety duties. It can require staff to cooperate with them and to follow what they are told, but it cannot delegate a duty. There is no problem asking staff to do something e.g., a risk assessment, which is part of the policy, but it remains the employer’s duty to ensure it’s done and that it’s suitable and sufficient. It would not be a defence to a nursery if a member of staff did not undertake, for example, a risk assessment. The employer must therefore have a system in place to ensure such things are done.

EYFS: 3.65

At **YMCA Thames Gateway Group** we take all reasonable steps to ensure staff and children in our care are not exposed to risks. We promote the safety of children, parents, staff, and visitors by reviewing and reducing any risks.

Risk assessments

Risk assessments document the hazards/aspects of the childcare environments that needs to be checked on a regular basis. These include who could be harmed, existing controls, the seriousness of the risk/injury, any further action needed to control the risk, who is responsible for what action, when/how often will the action be undertaken, and how this will be monitored and checked and by whom.

Each childcare setting carries out written risk assessments regularly (at least annually). These are regularly reviewed and cover potential risks to children, staff, and visitors at the setting. When circumstances change in the childcare setting, e.g., a significant piece of equipment is introduced or new activity/experience; we review our current risk assessment or conduct a new risk assessment dependent on the nature of this change.

All staff are trained in the risk assessment process to ensure understanding and compliance of how they manage risks. A daily risk assessment open and close check is also completed to minimise hazards within the environment both inside and outside of each setting.

All outings away from the settings are individually risk assessed and adequately staffed with paediatric first aid trained practitioners. For more details, please refer to the visits and outings policy.

This policy was adopted by	YMCA Thames Gateway Group
On	10/02/2023
Signed on behalf of the provider	
Name of signatory	Amanda Allen

Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)	Head of Family and Children's Services
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Policy review date	10/02/2024 – on or before
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Name of reviewer	_____
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Signature of reviewer	_____
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Role of reviewer	_____
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