

RISK ASSESSMENT · UNITED KINGDOM · 2026

EYFS Nursery & Childcare Daily Risk Assessment

UK template for a nursery / childcare daily risk assessment under the EYFS statutory framework and Childcare Act 2006 — indoor and outdoor sweeps, ratios, intimate care, off-site outings.

The EYFS statutory framework requires every early years provider to take all reasonable steps to ensure children are not exposed to risks and to be able to demonstrate how they manage them. In practice that means a written assessment of the setting plus a daily safety check before children arrive. Ofsted inspectors ask for both. This template covers the daily walk-round, the standing assessment of the setting, the ratio and supervision controls, and the specific high-risk activities (sleep, intimate care, food preparation, water play, outings) that the EYFS framework calls out explicitly.

Document structure a reviewer expects

1. Provider and registration details

Setting name, Ofsted URN, registered person, designated safeguarding lead (DSL), date and review interval.

2. Daily safety check — indoor sweep

Room-by-room pre-opening checklist: temperature, electrical, choking hazards, nappy area, kitchen, medication store.

3. Daily safety check — outdoor sweep

Perimeter, gates, surface, equipment, fouling / sharps check, water hazards, sun shade in summer.

4. Ratios and supervision

How statutory ratios are maintained including breaks, intimate care, emergency egress and arrival / collection transitions.

5. Sleep and rest arrangements

Safer sleep practice, room temperature, named sleep checker, frequency of observation.

6. Intimate care and nappy changing

Privacy, two-staff visibility, recording, hygiene, soiled-clothing procedure.

7. Food, allergens and medication

Allergen list, Natasha's Law / FIC 2014 compliance, medication consent and administration log.

8. Outings and off-site visits

Per-trip written assessment, ratio assessment for the specific venue, head-count protocol, missing-child procedure.

9. Behavioural / safeguarding flags

Cross-reference to KCSIE and to the safeguarding policy — escalation route for disclosures, injury patterns, behavioural concerns.

10. Sign-off and audit trail

Daily sheet retention (minimum 3 months on display), monthly manager review, annual full re-assessment.

Common reasons reviewers reject this document

- Generic template — no setting-specific zones, no Ofsted URN, no named DSL.
- Daily sheets have gaps or only one signature for an extended period.
- Sleep procedure does not follow Lullaby Trust safer sleep guidance.
- Intimate care section silent on two-staff visibility and recording.
- Allergen management does not reference Natasha's Law / FIC 2014 for any food prepared on site.
- Outings procedure is generic — no per-trip written assessment evidence available on request.

UK regulation reference

Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage DfE EYFS framework (2024)

Sets the safeguarding and welfare requirements, ratios, and the explicit risk-assessment duty for early years providers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

Childcare Act 2006 2006 c.21

Primary statute — Ofsted registration, the welfare requirements and the enforcement framework.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/21/contents>

Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 1974 c.37

Employer duties to staff, children and visitors on the premises.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/37/contents>

Food Information Regulations 2014 (Natasha's Law amendment) SI 2014/1855 (as amended)

Allergen-labelling duty for food prepared on the premises and supplied to children.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/1855/contents/made>

Lullaby Trust — Safer sleep for babies Lullaby Trust guidance

The standard reference for sleep arrangements for under-twos.

<https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/safer-sleep-advice/>

Frequently asked questions

Does the EYFS framework require a written daily risk assessment?

It does not mandate writing in every case, but it requires the provider to demonstrate how risk is identified and managed. In practice Ofsted asks for written evidence — a daily safety-check sheet is the de facto standard and most providers retain at least three months on file.

What are the statutory ratios for an EYFS nursery in England?

Broadly 1:3 for under-twos, 1:4 for two-year-olds (or 1:5 in some circumstances if an EYP / QTS-led setting), and 1:8 for three-year-olds and over (1:13 where a QTS / EYP is present and working directly with the children). Out-of-school clubs follow different ratios — check the current version of the framework, which is updated periodically.

Do I need a separate risk assessment for each outing?

Yes. The EYFS framework specifically requires that the risk assessment of outings is recorded. A standing template is acceptable as the basis but the per-trip assessment must be done on the venue, the route, the ratios for that venue, and the named lead.

How do I record the daily check?

A dated and timed sheet covering indoor sweep, outdoor sweep, equipment and consumables, signed by the staff member who carried out the check and counter-signed by the manager on opening. Ofsted samples these on

inspection — gaps or single-signature blocks for weeks are flagged in the safeguarding domain.

What's the difference between this and the wider school premises risk assessment?

Schools that include EYFS provision (reception classes, nursery classes attached to a primary school) need both: the school premises assessment under HSWA / MHSWR for the building and statutory inspections, and the EYFS-specific assessment for the daily welfare requirements, ratios, sleep, intimate care and outings.

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