

Individual child risk assessment for children with complex
health needs: handy hints

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Why do I need to risk assess individual children?

- Mainstream childcare settings are increasingly providing care for children with additional needs and / or complex health and special needs. In order for these children to be fully included within your setting, and for them to enjoy full participation in all activities, risk assessments must be carried out detailing the additional support put in place (3.65 EYFS March 2021).
- Risks cannot be removed completely, but it is possible to manage them appropriately. You must ensure that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks.

Does every child need an individual risk assessment?

- NO – only children who are at risk of harm due to the child's individual additional needs and / or complex special needs / health needs require risk assessing.

Does the child have a health care plan in place?

- If YES – then you MUST do a risk assessment for the child which should be updated and reviewed alongside the health care plan.
- You may include examples such as the risk of administering the incorrect dose of medication and detail the measures put in place to prevent this from happening.
- Your administering medication policy should include the above.

What do you include in the individual risk assessment?

- Only include activities or actions that IMPACT ON THAT PARTICULAR CHILD. If they don't impact on the individual child – don't include them.

Do I need to risk assess children who display challenging behaviours?

- You do not need to assess the individual child, but you may want to do a risk assessment on challenging behaviours – detailing the measures put in place to reduce the potential impact for all. This should be supported by your promoting positive behaviour policy and included within your generic risk assessment of your environment. Practitioners may wish to produce a positive coping plan (or support plan) for the individual child to ensure a consistent approach for the child, however this is separate to the risk assessment process.

Who should carry out the risk assessment?

- The individual actions and measures should be discussed in partnership with the parent/carers, the child's key person, outside agencies involved and the setting SENCO.
- The whole staff team should be aware of and fully included in the steps taken to minimise risk of harm to the individual child.