

# Risk Assessment

We want children to develop a sense of responsibility and ownership, yet how often do we afford opportunities for this? One way to do this regularly is to allow them to assess the playground/outdoor area you will be working in, identify any hazards or dangers and share them as a group.

## Activity

Take the children outside and form a circle. Ask them what hazards might be outside; they need to be aware of and what they can do to mitigate that risk. Make a note of each hazard, as this will form the basis of your risk assessment. It is worth doing this outside as the children can look for the risks.

This list should include, but is not restricted to:

- Sharp/ prickly plants or other materials
- Anything poisonous, leaves, fungi, berries
- Branches, low or fallen
- Uneven or slippery ground
- Insects, stings and bites
- General public
- Roads
- Dangerous litter, broken glass or needles etc
- Weather, sun, wind and rain can all play a part
- Water, rives, burns, canals, lochs etc
- Canopy, overhanging or dead branches

Once you have your list, teach the children to assess the site or playground every time you go out.

Give ownership to the children for this.

