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| **RISK MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE** |
| **CATEGORY** | **Parent and Child Placement** |

**This form should be completed at the start of a parent and child placement and reviewed on a regular basis.**

**Please complete the following for every parent and child placement:**

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| **Child’s Name** |  | **DOB** |  |
| **Parents Name** |  | **DOB** |  |
| **Foster Carer** |  | **Date** |  |

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| **Scope:** |
| There is a requirement to examine all risks to all household members, including; Foster Carers, their families and the Parent and Child placed in their care. The aim is to eliminate or manage identified risks as far as is reasonably practicable. |
| Risk assessments are an invaluable tool when working with Parents and Children. It is important to use the assessment as a working document ensuring that the assessment accurately reflects all areas regarding the Parent and Child placed. |
| Risk assessments are evolving documents and should reflect both positive and negative behaviour and be reviewed and updated regularly. |
| The status of the placement should be established at the outset. In some situations it is the parent who is in care. In others it is the child. Occasionally it is both parties. Once this is established, agreement can be developed on respective roles and responsibilities, with the agreement that carers are always responsible for the oversight of the placement |
| Every Parent and Child has the right to the services and support they need to live ordinary lives. |
| Consideration needs to be given to the home and surrounding area to ensure a safe environment. |
| The training and competencies of any carer of a Parent and Child will need to be considered prior to any placement. |
| The designated Supervising Social Worker will provide information and advice to the carers about services available to them. |
| The provision of any equipment and adaptations that may be required, depending on the age/needs of baby and the status of the placement, will be assessed and considered, taking any medical and developmental issues into account. |
| The Supervising Social Worker will need to ensure that any specific risks to the baby have been recorded and any actions required to reduce are implemented immediately. |

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| **The risk assessment is a guide as needs vary from one Parent and Child to another.** |
| Possible consequences of activity/behaviour being assessed: |
| **Identified Risks** |
| * Falls
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| * Strangulation
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| * Drowning
 |
| * Poisoning
 |
| * Lack of first aid
 |
| * Burns and Scalds
 |
| * Choking
 |
| * Suffocation
 |
| * Fire
 |
| * Smoke inhalation second hand smoke
 |
| * Cuts/bumps/bruises
 |
| * Travel
 |
| * Clothing
 |
| * Equipment
 |
| * Shaking baby syndrome
 |
| * Hygiene standards
 |
| * SIDS
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| Actions which need to be taken to reduce the level of risk: |
| **Matching Process** |
| * As part of this procedure, consideration should be given prior to placing a Parent and Child with carers ensuring the carers training is up to date and their competencies will cover the needs of the Parent and Child.
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| * The Child’s Social Worker will provide information identifying risks posed by the Parent and the needs of the Child to enable Foster Carer(s) to accurately assess and manage risks and adopt appropriate strategies.
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| **Post Placement** |
| * Foster Carer(s) have a household Safer Care Policy.
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| * Foster Carer(s) have a Child Specific Safer Caring Policy in relation to Parent and Child placed.
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| * Foster Carer(s) have regular Supervision with a Supervising Social Worker.
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| * Carers will be encouraged to discuss any concerning behaviour and take on board the advice and guidance offered.
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| * Foster Carer(s) have access to emergency support via the Local Authority Emergency Duty Team.
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| * The Child’s and Parents Social Worker will visit Parent and Child as within Statutory Requirements.
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| **Prevention of falls** |
| Always change baby’s nappy on the floor using a changing mat. |
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| Baby must never be left alone on a bed/sofa/changing table unsupervised; babies can easily fall off and seriously injure themselves. |
| Never place a bouncing cradle or baby seat on a table or kitchen worktop – wriggling could tip it over the edge – only use on the floor**.** |
| As soon as baby can crawl safety gates are required at the top and bottom of the staircase and other areas as assessed. |
| If gaps on banisters are more than 6.5cm, cover with safety netting or boards at the top of the landing, in addition to fitting stair gates at the top and bottom of the stairs once baby is mobile. |
| Low furniture should not be sited under windows; this provides easy access for a child to climb up to and access a window. |
| Window restrictors are required on all windows above ground floor level to prevent accidental falls from height. |
| A five point harness should be used in a highchair; never leave any child unattended in a highchair. |
| Always hold the handrail whilst carrying baby up and down stairs, this will assist in preventing you from falling down or upstairs whilst holding baby. |
| Take care when carrying baby around the house; it’s easy to trip over something like a child’s toy. |

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| **Prevention of strangulation** |
| Young babies can easily get ribbons or cords caught around their neck and become unable to free themselves. |
| Dummy’s must not be tied onto babies clothes as the tie or ribbon could strangle the baby. |
| All cot toys must have very short ribbons and must all be removed when baby goes to sleep. |
| Never hang things like bags with cords or string over the baby’s cot. |
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| Do not use cot bumpers due to the dangers these can pose |
| All curtain or blind cords must be secured with a cleat high up out of child’s reach. |
| Never place the child’s cot under the window. |
| **Prevention of drowning** |
| Babies can drown in 5cm of water |
| You must stay with baby at all times whilst they are in the bath. N**ever** leave them alone for even one minutes even if another child is in the bath with them. |
| A bath seat is not a safety device; you still need to stay with baby at all times whilst they are in the bath. |
| Never leave a child unsupervised in a paddling pool or near water at any time. |
| **Prevention of poisoning** |
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| All babies from about six months old begin to put things in their mouth. |
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| All medication must be in a locked box. |
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| All cleaning products must be kept out of reach |
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| All low cupboards and drawers must have child locks fitted |
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| Ensure all bottle tops and lids are secure after using |
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| Carbon monoxide detectors are required wherever there is a flame burning appliance. |
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| Know the plants in your garden and protect young children from them. Supervision is required |
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| **First aid** |
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| Carer must have First Aid Training. |
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| First aid boxes must be well stocked with all equipment in date. |
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| **Prevention of burns and scalds** |
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| A baby’s skin is much thinner than an adults and will burn or scald much more easily. |
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| Bath water must be tested with a thermometer before you put baby in the water |
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| Cold water should always be run in the bath first before adding the hot water |
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| **Do not use a microwave to heat bottles** as this can create hot spots which could scald baby’s mouth. Use a bottle warmer or jug of hot water. |
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| When warming milk, shake the bottle and test the temperature with a thermometer before feeding; it should feel lukewarm only. |
| Babies should not be allowed in the kitchen whilst cooking is taking place; stair gates may be required on the kitchen. |
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| Kettles should be placed well back on worktops with no trailing leads hanging over the worktop; small children can easily pull any trailing cords. |
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| Never hold baby whilst you are having a hot drink. |
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| Never leave hot drinks in easy reach of a baby. |
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| Fixed fireguards are required on all fires at all times even when not in use. |
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| Hair straighteners and irons should be moved immediately after use to a safe storage location |
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| Child Resistant Restrictors must be fitted on all low level cupboards and drawers |

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| **Prevention of choking/suffocation** |
| Young babies can easily choke – even on their milk |
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| Once they get a little bigger they put things into their mouth |
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| Always hold your baby and their bottle when feeding |
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| Always ensure there are no small items like buttons, coins, small parts of toys in reach of the baby |
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| Once baby is old enough to eat solid food, ensure all food is cut up very small. **Do not warm in microwave**; food should only be room temperature. |
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| Always put baby to sleep on their back and in the “feet to foot” position with your baby’s toes close to the end of the cot to prevent them wriggling down under the covers |
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| Never use pillows, bumpers, duvets or baby nests when baby is under 1 year old as they can suffocate if their face gets covered. |
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| Never use cot bumpers; the agency does not allow them. |
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| Never let baby go to sleep in your bed; baby needs to be in the safe sleep position at all times. |
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| Do not leave nappy sack in reach of baby; these present a particular danger to babies as they cling to babies face so they cannot breathe in the same way a plastic carrier bag would. |
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| Safe sleep policy must be read. |
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| Room temperature needs to be 16-20 degrees Celsius. |
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| Baby monitors are required in the baby’s room. |
| Carer needs access to carry out checks on the baby in the bedroom during the night; if they feel it is appropriate they may enter without knocking |
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| **Fire**  |
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| Smoke alarms must be fitted on all levels of the property and tested weekly. |
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| All smokers materials must be kept out of reach of all children |
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| Switch off all electrical items wherever possible before going to bed and close all doors to contain any fire |
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| **Smoking** |
| No child under 5 years will be placed in a smoking home |
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| Home must be kept smoke free at all times |
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| Visitors to the home must smoke outside the property away from doors and windows |
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| Car must be kept smoke free at all times  |
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| E-cigarettes are regarded as dangerous as real cigarettes and must be kept out of reach of children and babies – they contain toxic materials |
| **Prevention of cuts, bumps and bruises** |
| All low glass doors and windows should be fitted with safety glass or fitted with film |
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| Door guards should be used to protect fingers being trapped in doors – remember to close at night to avoid the spread of fire |
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| Use corner protectors to protect sharp corners on furniture |
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| **Out and about** |
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| Correct car seat needed for baby’s age, height and weight – refer to the advice provided by maufacturers |
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| Seat needs to be fitted correctly and always ensure baby is securely strapped in the seat |
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| Never use a rear facing car seat in the front seat where there is a passenger air-bag |
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| **Never** leave baby alone in a car |
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| Use a five point harness in a pushchair to secure child |
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| Never use a soft sling to carry a baby if they go to sleep, this can result in their windpipe getting blocked |
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| **Clothing**  |
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| Avoid open weave or nylon clothing, fingers and toes can get caught in the thread and cut off blood supply |
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| Check baby’s clothes regularly for loose buttons |
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| Do not use clothing with cords or long ties or ribbons on |
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| In summer baby needs loose clothing that covers arms and legs and a sun hat that covers the head and back of the neck |
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| Summer sun can seriously burn a baby’s skin if unprotected |
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| **Equipment**  |
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| In order to ensure there is no damage and they are safe to use, checks should be made on a regular basis of all equipment that the baby will use, including: |
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| Cots |
|  |
| Highchairs |
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| Pushchairs |
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| Car Seats |
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| Toys will need to be age appropriate and have a safety mark. |
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| **Checks made on baby when sleeping** |
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| Regular checks should be made on baby when they are sleeping |
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| Check baby is not too hot or cold whilst asleep |
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| Check baby has not rolled over or wriggled down under bedclothes |
| **Shaking Baby Syndrome** |
| Supervising Social Worker and the parents social worker should make the parent and carer aware of dangers |
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| **Hygiene standards** |
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| The importance of cleanliness is vital to prevent any spread of germs |
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| Washing of hands before feeding baby and handling baby |
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| Regular changing of nappies and ensure hands are washed after this task |
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| Bath baby daily |
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| Wash dummies thoroughly when they fall on the floor |
| **Any additional comments or actions required not covered above:** |
| **Any specific risks to this placement need to be recorded below and any action to be implemented to reduce the risk recorded** |
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| **Date of assessment review (Must take place six months following this assessment or sooner if a situation dictates otherwise)** |
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| **Person** | **Signed** | **Date** |
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| **Parent** |  |  |
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| **Supervising Social Worker**  |  |  |
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| **Practice Lead/Principal Manager** |  |  |
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| **Foster Carer(s)** |  |  |
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| **Local Authority** **Social Worker**  |  |  |

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