

RISK ASSESSMENTS

It's important to run through a risk assessment of your garden and this is not as daunting as it sounds. You need to think about what sorts of things could go wrong, where someone might get hurt and then consider what you might do to prevent that from happening. Walk around your garden and make a list that includes:

- Things that could be dangerous
- What you can do to prevent this
- Think about slippery or uneven paths; water; trip hazards
- Also remember to look up and think about pergolas, branches, for example, at height, where someone tall might bump their head

The following are examples for your list:

Potential hazards	Preventative measures
Children could go into your deep pond	Put up a special sign saying 'Deep water, please keep children away'
If it's a rainy day, someone might slip on your bridge	Put up a sign saying, 'Slippery when wet'.
Overhanging or broken branches	Have a tree surgeon round before the open day to assess the health of all your trees
Children could get hurt on your climbing frame and trampoline	Decide whether to signpost each piece of equipment as 'please keep off' or as 'equipment used entirely at user's risk; parents must supervise children'; or else have the equipment supervised
Someone might get burnt by hot tea or coffee	Serve hot drinks to visitors only when seated at tables. Don't allow visitors to serve themselves buffet-style; use take-away style cups with lids.
Someone could trip on uneven paving	Put up a sign saying 'Uneven paving' or block access to the path, if appropriate

NOTE: Please do not charge for the use of equipment such as children's play sets, because this implies a degree of responsibility on your behalf.

We have more detailed Risk Assessment templates on this webpage which can be used if you find it helpful. These are for your own use and you do not need to return this to Head Office or your District Organiser.