

Inspection Round-Up



SOSCN

April 2024



Health & Safety

Comments regarding health & safety are often mentioned with regards to quality indicators:

- 1.1 Nurturing care and support
- 2.2 Children experience high quality facilities
- 4.1 Staff skills, knowledge and values
- 4.4 Staff deployment



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For services receiving higher grades in this area, typical comments included:

- Secure entrance and exit systems were in place to prevent unauthorised access and to prevent children from leaving unaccompanied.
- Children were involved in the risk assessment process. Staff would complete risk assessment forms with children, or even ask questions during play to prompt conversation and encourage children to consider risks and hazards.
- Services carried out daily checklists of their premises, often involving the children in this process.



For services receiving lower grades in this area, typical comments included:

- Outdoor play spaces without walls or fences lacked visual boundaries. Using cones or rope to mark boundaries could help children identify them. Wearing the likes of high visibility vests would help staff spot children going beyond the boundaries.
- Staff lacked core training to support a safe and healthy environment, in topics such as; child protection, infection prevention control, food hygiene, risk assessing.
- Unplanned staff deployment meant that some play areas were not adequately staffed for the number of children present. Services should consider staff experience levels, qualifications and skills when deploying their staff.

