



How OYCI Calculates Risk

RISK RATINGS:

Likelihood (probability)

- 5 Almost certain
- 4 Probable
- 3 Possible
- 2 Possible (under unfortunate circumstances)
- 1 Rare

Severity (Consequences)

- 5 Fatality
- 4 Major injury, resulting in permanent damage
- 3 Injury requiring hospital or doctor attendance
- 2 Minor injury requiring first aid
- 1 No damage, injury

RISK RATING Likelihood x Severity

Score 1-9 = LOW Score 10 - 15 = MEDIUM Score 16-25 = HIGH

Please note: youth work is a dynamic and unpredictable environment and therefore all risks cannot be identified in advance. As situations or environments change, risks fluctuate. Despite our comprehensive pre-planned risk assessments, workers always need to be able to undertake dynamic risk assessments as an immediate response to evolving circumstances. Our priority is the safety and wellbeing of the young people in our care.

This risk assessment should be read in conjunction with the 'Taking Part in Activity' risk assessment which ALWAYS applies.

Sharps Risk Assessment

Reviewed and updated April 2025

For the purpose of this risk assessment, we classify sharps as graters, potato peelers, knives, scissors, needles. For more in-details, see our Tools Risk Assessment. ([Tools and Outdoor Equipment RA](#))

Risk 1: Small cuts, nicks and small incisions. Very small amount of blood easily stopped with a plaster - young people/staff/others.

RISK RATING $4 \times 2 = 8$ /LOW

MITIGATIONS: All YP to be given a safe handling briefing by session leader. OYCI staff to show, demonstrate, teach and if needed correct the individuals handling and etiquette of knife/sharp safety to avoid harm to self and others. Session leader to closely monitor sharp usage throughout the session. All staff supporting sessions have been trained in using sharps. Staff to ensure participants follow the procedures for sharps use as set out by session leader. Group size max 15 allowing for high staff to YP ratios to support close supervision. Staff to YP ratio will be decided in advance appropriate to the sharps being used (smaller group sizes/ more staff for high-risk sharps) - staff are on hand to support any individual who requires help/support YP will be stationed and in one place and required to limit moving around area. No YP moving away from station whilst holding sharps. Trained first aiders and first aid kit at session to deal with any minor injuries. If first aid given, parents will be advised of the incident and the risk of infection. Fully charged mobile phone at all times in case need to contact medical services.

Any YP identified as having additional support needs are Identified in session plan. Extra supervision to be given where needed. Sharps to be issued prior to their usage and collected in, and counted by OYCI staff after use. Session leaders to ensure participants are appropriately spaced away from each other to minimise risk.

RISK RATING $3 \times 2 = 6$ /LOW

Risk 2: Large cut, profuse bleeding and pain. Requiring first aid - young people/staff/others. RISK RATING $3 \times 4 = 12$ /MEDIUM

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RISK RATING 2 x 4 = 8/LOW

Risk 3: Serious injury, requiring external medical assistance - young people/staff

RISK RATING 2 x 5 = 10/MEDIUM

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RISK RATING 1 X 5 = 5/LOW

