Advice for writing a risk assessment for a child/young people with a VI (visual impairment)/HI (hearing impairment) need.

- Remember that the VI/HI child can, with planning, be included in any activity.
- Liaise with the QToD (Qualified Teacher of the Deaf)/QTVI (Qualified Teacher of the Visually Impaired) regarding the trip/residential so that specific needs can be recorded in the risk assessment.
- Liaise with the activity centre/destination - they may or may not have catered for a VI/HI child/pupil before. Provide them with a written summary of need/agree the risk assessment.
- Discuss the trip/residential with parents/carers. Advise them of the activities and note parental preferences/concerns/advice.
- Decide staffing – who will work 1-1 with the child/pupil? Is it their usual TA? If not does the new person need training? Are they able to communicate appropriately with the child eg. Signing?
- Pre-teach the child – do they know where they are going/what they will be doing? What support would they like with the different activities? How would they like to be guided/communicated with?
- If a Deaf child does not have their technology on for an activity, or if the activity means they are unable to lip read or be near the speakers’ voice, they will not be able to hear verbal instructions. Practice and agree signs/responses – consider radio aid use.
- Orientate the child on arrival at the venue – Can they find the toilets/fire exits?
- What is the protocol for a fire drill? – who will be responsible for the child? If it is night time a Deaf child will not have their technology on and may not be woken by a fire alarm or hear verbal instructions. Who will guide a visually impaired child in the dark?
- In a shower/wash room a Deaf child will not have technology on. A Visually impaired child will not have glasses/contact lenses on. Think about privacy/safeguarding. How will staff communicate with them/ensure their safety?
- Think about equipment – where will the cane/glasses/ aids/cochlear implants/radio aid be stored at night /during an activity. Who will keep spare batteries/charge the rechargeable batteries/charge the radio aid?
- During physical activities think about use of a helmet over hearing aids/cochlear implants – will it fit? It will cover the microphones. Can a radio aid be used? Will sign/gesture need to be used

Please remember that we are happy to support assessments and provide advice. Please feel free to contact:
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