

# Simply Safety: Young People



## Young people – an asset too good to waste

Young people are the future – they are needed in just about every workplace, from offices and shops to factories and on construction sites. But workplaces can be dangerous and young people will need extra attention when they turn up for work.

Risk assessments that focus on the employment of young people will identify the possible need for extra supervision, dedicated training, and guidance on any activities that should be prohibited.

## Key facts about young people

### • What's the problem?

Young people are generally regarded as being at greater risk than other workers.

All people are at greater risk of injury during the first few months of employment but young people may not have reached physical maturity and may lack physical strength. A lack of experience may also place young people at greater risk of injury.

### • What's the solution?

Before any young person starts work, a risk assessment should be carried out to specifically address the issues of young people in the workplace.

### • What might be needed?

Young people may require extra supervision, more detailed instructions, special training or modifications to the task or activity, as they may have a reduced perception of danger, exposing them to greater risk.

### • Don't forget to monitor

Tell employees, especially supervisors, about what you have found and what needs to be done and enlist their help in protecting young people from harm. Make sure that the controls have been carried out and are effective in protecting young people.

### • Record it

It is useful to keep records of your risk assessment findings. They will enable you to check things in the future and ensure that young people are protected from the risk of accident and injury.

### • Finally

Do whatever it takes to make sure young people start their working life safely.

Simply Safety Sheets are intended to provide a short and simple introduction to the key issues facing business. For more information go to [www.norwichunion.com/RiskManager](http://www.norwichunion.com/RiskManager) and for consultancy, training courses and more information go to Norwich Union's risk management subsidiary Norwich Union Risk Services [www.nurs.co.uk](http://www.nurs.co.uk)

Simply Safety information sheets are designed to give general information on risk management topics. Readers should take specific advice when dealing with particular situations.

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