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| Reason: | Construction sites are hazardous places, even for adults who should be aware of the dangers. Young people, with their lack of safety awareness, are particularly at risk of work-related injury or ill health. |
| Outline: | This talk covers why young people are vulnerable and what everyone should be doing to safeguard their health & safety. |

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| Who is a Young Person? |

1. Health & safety law defines a young person as anyone under 18 years of age.

2. The law does not prohibit employment of young people on construction sites.

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| What are the Problems? |

1. Young people may not have the same level of knowledge and safety awareness as a more experienced person.

2. For some young people a construction site will be their first experience of a workplace.

3. Changes in legislation have removed the minimum age limit of 18 for operating plant and lifting equipment.

4. Young people may not appreciate their own limitations and will require a greater level of supervision than an adult, the level depending on the job, conditions, and their experience.

5. Young people may be more likely to take unnecessary risks in the workplace and

may unwittingly create dangerous situations because of an eagerness to please.





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| Protection of Young People: |

* Risk Assessments must take account of young people in the workplace and jobs that they are required to do.
* Be aware of their lack of safety awareness, their physical and psychological immaturity, and their inexperience.
* Only give jobs to young people that they can cope with, both physically and mentally.
* Do not allow young people that they can cope with, both physically and mentally.
* Do not allow young people to carry out particularly dangerous jobs (such as using abrasive wheels).
* Whatever the job, you must ensure that the level of supervision is adequate.
* Ensure that young people attend the site induction, even if they are only going to be on site for a short time.
* If young people are working near to you, you should be ready to stop them if they carry out any activity that is clearly unsafe.
* Encourage young people to speak out if they do not feel safe with what they have been asked to do; it may only be a case of reassurance or maybe more supervision, training or direction is required.
* Do not tolerate messing about, or other unsafe actions.

**Discussion Points:**

What action should you take if you witness a young person in a position of danger?

What do you do if a young person arrives unfit for work?

How do you assess the correct level of supervision?

How did you feel on your first day in the workplace?