

Risks can be defined as perceptions of danger and uncertainties that may have negative outcomes but which may also be undertaken with positive consequences.

The concept of risk is complex the following points can help in developing a better understanding.

Risk and Its Meaning

- risk and uncertainty are key features of contemporary society
- being at risk unintentionally is not the same as knowingly taking risks
- risk cannot be defined solely with reference to the behaviours it seeks to explain
- not all risk-taking is negative
- taking risks can be seen as a normal part of growing up
- most young people see risk-taking as positive
- taking risks cannot always be avoided
- learning to manage risk is a very important skill
- attitudes to children at risk are closely associated with attitudes towards childhood and the role of children within contemporary society
- childhood can be viewed as being about growing up, making decisions and taking risks

A recent report by the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce Risk Commission on current attitudes towards risk and childhood can be accessed [here](#).