

When the new Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) document is introduced in September 2008, there is a requirement for Early Year's settings who care for 0 to 5 year olds to have a first aider who has completed a specific course in **paediatric first aid**. This document is intended to help you to comply with this new legislation.

Does my school or nursery need a paediatric first aider?

Yes, if you have children in the age range of 0 to 5 years.

Is a first aider who has done a First Aid at Work (FAW) Course sufficient?

No. A First Aid at work course generally covers adult first aid and does not cover specific child topics (such as meningitis). A paediatric first aider is someone who has received specific training and assessment in first aid for children.

How many paediatric first aiders do I need?

You should provide cover at all times, including cover for foreseeable absences and school trips, so you will usually need a minimum of 2 paediatric first aiders and more if you need extra cover for school trips.

How long is a Paediatric First Aid Course?

The course has a minimum teaching contact time of 12 hours (excluding breaks), so it is usually run over 2 days.

How long are certificates valid for?

Currently the certificates are valid for 3 years.

How should the Paediatric First Aider Requalify their certificate?

By attending another 12 hour (2 day) course.

Can someone who has attended a First Aid at Work Course attend the Paediatric Course?

Yes. The first aider would then hold both qualifications; 'Paediatric First Aid' and 'First Aid at Work'.

Does a Paediatric First Aider have to attend the FAW Course?

No. They can attend the 12 hour paediatric course and they will then be qualified only in paediatric first aid.

Will my existing FAW first aider still be allowed to give first aid to children under 5?

It's not appropriate to say that a first aider is 'not allowed' to give first aid to a younger child, because treatment from any first aider is obviously better than no treatment at all. The school should however ensure that they have sufficient 'paediatric' first aiders so that there is cover at all times. So if a first aider would be expected to provide first aid to under 5's on a regular basis, they should complete the paediatric course. If the paediatric first aider was *unforeseeably* absent, it would be acceptable for a FAW first aider to provide first aid as a 'back up'.

Would my existing first aider be insured if they gave first aid to a child under 5?

Any member of staff in a school has a "duty of care" to provide help if a child becomes ill or injured, so even someone without any first aid training should help to the best of their ability until more qualified help arrives. "I am not covered to provide help" is a common misconception in such cases. If they provided help, the member of staff would be simply doing their job (for which they should be insured).

Where can I find more information on first aid provision requirements?

Summarised information is available on our website:
http://www.firstonscene.co.uk/how_many_first_aiders_schools.htm

The EYFS documents, including paediatric first aid provision requirements (0 to 5 yrs) can be found at:
<http://www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/eyfs/site/resource/pdfs.htm>

First Aid Guidance for Schools (over 5 yrs) can be downloaded at:
<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=GFAS98&>