

Introduction

The most important duty for early years providers and their staff is to make sure that the children who attend are safe and healthy. The *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage* (EYFS, 2014) recognises an element of this vital responsibility through the following mandatory requirements in relation to first aid that all providers must follow:

At least one person who has a current paediatric first aid certificate must be on the premises and available at all times when children are present, and must accompany children on outings. Childminders, and any assistant who might be in sole charge of the children for any period of time, must hold a current paediatric first aid certificate. Paediatric first aid training¹⁸ must be relevant for workers caring for young children and where relevant, babies. Providers should take into account the number of children, staff and layout of premises to ensure that a paediatric first aider is able to respond to emergencies quickly.

¹⁸Providers can choose which organisation they wish to provide the training (preferably one with a nationally approved and accredited first aid qualification or one that is a member of a trade body with an approval and monitoring scheme) but the training must cover the course content as for St John Ambulance or Red Cross paediatric first aid training and be renewed every three years. (EYFS, 3.25)

As the EYFS makes clear, staff who are appropriately trained in first aid must be sufficient in number and deployed effectively. Many settings recognise the value of having a large proportion of staff members trained to carry out first aid, with some aiming for all childcare staff to be trained. To ensure at least one person holding a full current paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate is on the premises at all times, providers will need to ensure that two or more staff are appropriately trained to offer flexibility in the event of staff sickness, holidays and outings.

Newly qualified staff

From 1 September 2016, newly qualified early years staff (employed or volunteering) who achieved an early years qualification at level 2 or 3 on or after 30 June 2016, are required to have a paediatric first aid certificate in order to be counted in the adult:child ratios. Anyone who has achieved a level 2 or 3 qualification and worked in a group setting with that qualification prior to 1 September 2016 does not need to have a PFA certificate. Affected staff will be allowed a three month 'grace' period to complete their training after employment. Exceptions may be made for new staff with a disability, who are unable to complete the training or provide paediatric first aid in an emergency, provided that the EYFS requirements are otherwise met.

Providers are also encouraged 'to display (or make available) staff PFA certificates or a list of staff with PFA training'. (DfE 2015) A template list to record staff with paediatric first aid training is included on page 37.

First aid activity and action record

Date	Action or activity	Outcome/further actions

SAMPLE