

First aid training to be made compulsory for new nursery recruits

New nursery and pre-school staff will be legally required to undertake paediatric first aid for the first time, thanks to new government proposals unveiled earlier this year. In their current state, the new proposals will mean that newly qualified staff with a childcare level 2 and 3 qualification, must have an emergency paediatric first aid or full paediatric first aid certificate, if they are to count towards the staff/qualification ratios under the early years foundation stage. The emergency first aid training course would be the equivalent of 1 day of training and as per the current legislation, this would need to be refreshed every 3 years in order for the staff member to keep counting in the ratios.

Additionally, it is proposed that nurseries who achieve 'Gold Standard' first aid provision, will be awarded with a newly created certificate which will be known as 'Millie's Mark'. Nurseries who are awarded this certificate will be able to display this to show parents that their children are being cared for by well trained, knowledgeable staff in a safe environment. These proposals were put into place after the tragic death of Millie Thompson, due to a choking incident in a nursery setting in 2012. For full details visit: www.milliestrust.com

It is anticipated that these changes will add approximately 15,000 additional trained early years professionals to our nurseries and pre-schools each and every year. The proposals cover all early years settings, with the exception of childminders. The proposed changes will not affect the OFSTED checks, and they will still check the Paediatric First Aid certificates held by staff upon registration as well as during inspections.

Our Business Training Unit have offered the Level 3 Paediatric First Aid Course for the last few years but next year we are going to be offering the new Level 2 Emergency Paediatric First Aid Course. This will be a one day course along similar lines as the Emergency First Aid Course but will be tailored towards First Aid provision for Babies and children and include specific practice on baby and junior manikins for CPR and choking.

The emergency PFA course should be undertaken face-to-face and last for a minimum of 6 hours (excluding breaks) and cover the following areas:

- Be able to assess an emergency situation and prioritise what action to take
- Help a baby or child who is unresponsive and breathing normally
- Help a baby or child who is unresponsive and not breathing normally
- Help a baby or child who is having a seizure
- Help a baby or child who is choking
- Help a baby or child who is bleeding; and
- Help a baby or child who is suffering from shock caused by severe blood loss (hypovolemic shock)

The full PFA course should last for a minimum of 12 hours (excluding breaks) and cover the topics covered in the EPFA as well as the following areas:

- Help a baby or child who is suffering from anaphylactic shock
- Help a baby or child who has had an electric shock
- Help a baby or child who has burns or scalds
- Help a baby or child who has a suspected fracture
- Help a baby or child with head, neck or back injuries
- Help a baby or child who is suspected of being poisoned
- Help a baby or child with a foreign body in eyes, ears or nose
- Help a baby or child with an eye injury
- Help a baby or child with a bite or sting
- Help a baby or child who is suffering from the effects of extreme heat or cold
- Help a baby or child having: a diabetic emergency; asthma attack; allergic reaction; meningitis; and/or febrile convulsions
- Understand the role and responsibilities of the paediatric first aider (including appropriate contents of a first aid box and the need for recording accidents and incidents).