



Know what to do when children and young people are ill or injured, including emergency procedures

In this session, you'll consider the signs and symptoms of common childhood illnesses and the actions you should take when children or young people are injured or unwell.

It's inevitable that at some point during your career in working with children you'll come across situations involving accidents, illnesses, and emergencies. Children and young people are still learning the limits of their physical abilities, experimenting with the level of challenge they'll attempt, and they are also still building their immune system's capabilities. As they develop physically it's unavoidable that they'll experience cuts and scrapes, bumps and bruises. This is a natural part of growing up. However, they'll also catch illnesses, experience allergic reactions, and sometimes even have a nasty accident or fall that requires urgent medical attention. It's important that you know what to do in such situations so that you can deal with them effectively and obtain the urgent help they may require.

In emergency situations, such as fires or security incidents, children and young people will look to practitioners for leadership, for example, where they should evacuate to and how they should get there. They will pick up from your actions and words how serious the situation is and whether they should be worried. It's important that in such situations you're able to act confidently and swiftly, with a clear knowledge of the procedures to be followed. Your manner should be reassuring but decisive, showing the children the importance of following procedures efficiently, but also not causing them to feel overly anxious or worried.

In this lesson, you'll also look at the circumstances in which children might require urgent medical attention. You should be able to describe to your assessor the actions you would take in response to emergency situations, including fires, security incidents, and missing children or young people.