

Pearson response to the paediatric first aid consultation

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Do you agree that there should be more trained paediatric first aiders in early years settings?

Yes.

Do you agree with the proposal that, in addition to the voluntary quality assurance scheme, the Government should introduce a mandatory requirement for newly qualified early years staff (with full and relevant level 2 or level 3 childcare qualification) to also hold a current Paediatric First Aid (PFA) or emergency PFA certificate in order to be included in the required staff: child ratios in an early years setting?

Yes.

Do you agree that the benefits of the proposals laid out in this consultation justify the additional costs to childcare providers? Do you have any views on the impact assessment of our proposals?

Yes.

Do you agree this proposal should come into force from 1 September 2016, for staff who have completed their L2 or L3 childcare qualification after 30 June 2016? If not, please suggest an alternative date.

We agree that the PFA qualification should be mandatory for any learners completing after 1 September 2016.

We recommend that learners completing after 30 June 2016 should have 3 months to gain the PFA regardless of whether they are starting work immediately or not.

This would mean that anyone completing after 30 September 2016 would have the PFA. This grace period could be extended up to 6 months for learners completing in June 2016 but they could not be counted in numbers until the PFA was gained. Any one starting work from September 2016 should have the PFA qualification if counted into numbers.

Should newly qualified members of staff with a level 2 or level 3 qualification be allowed a three month 'grace' period to complete PFA training after starting work with a new employer?

No.

Do you agree with this course content for a one-day emergency PFA certificate? Do you think that any other subjects should be added to- or taken away from- the suggested course content?

Yes.

We would also recommend the course content include dealing with bangs to the head, or head injuries. These are common in nurseries and concussion can be serious if not detected and monitored correctly.

Do you agree that the Government should make an exception on equal opportunities grounds to new staff with a disability that would allow them to be included in the staff: child ratios without a PFA or emergency PFA certificate, provided that the EYFS requirements are otherwise met?

No.

If a staff member is able to work correctly in the setting and be counted as a full staff member in the adult child ratios then they should undertake and complete the same set of requirements as all other staff members, i.e. take the emergency PFA certificate.

Should early years providers be encouraged to display (or make available) staff PFA certificates in order to make it clear to parents how many and which staff are trained?

Yes.

A declaration of staff qualifications should be available and on display. This does not need to display certificates and could be staff names and a statement saying 'PFA qualified and certificates available'. An authorised copy of the original certificate could be displayed in a centre info booklet available for all.

Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposals set out in this consultation?

Whilst there is a cost to the setting after 3 years in the updating of skills, a refresher course could be designed that is cheaper and designed as CPD style courses, with group retraining.