



Focus on...

Your first aid box

Under the [Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework](#), Ofsted requires all providers on the [Early Years Register](#) (nurseries, childminders, schools, and pre-schools) to provide paediatric first aid provision that includes providing “appropriate contents” in a first aid box that is accessible at all times, containing items suitable for use with children. However, what specific supplies should a paediatric first aid kit contain?

There is no standard kit that works for everyone in every environment. However, the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981 have suggested that a [minimum first aid kit](#) for a low-risk environment such as a childminders or nursery contains:

- Individually wrapped sterile plasters of assorted sizes
- Sterile eye pads
- Individually wrapped triangular bandages, preferably sterile
- Safety pins
- Large and medium-sized sterile, individually wrapped, unmedicated wound dressings
- Disposable gloves
- a leaflet giving general guidance on first aid.

You may find it useful to include the latest edition of the [First Aid Manual](#), our comprehensive guide to over 100 first aid situations.

Many childcare settings also carry ice packs which are really useful for all the bumps children get through playing and exploring. These can be stored in a first aid kit, although some do need to be kept chilled so check your manufacturer's guidelines.

Additional items you may identify in your first aid needs assessment and wish to include in your first aid kit include:

- Sterile cleansing wipes
- Hand sanitiser
- Microporous tape
- Scissors
- Thermometer
- Eyewash
- Sterile gauze swabs
- Tweezers

It is recommended that the contents of your paediatric first aid kit be checked at regular intervals to ensure it is fully stocked and any expired or damaged supplies are discarded and replaced. The items within your first aid kit should be sealed, clean, and in-date.