Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice

QMS reference	EYI-RN12.8
Version	V1.0
Issued:	September 2026
Title:	First Aid requirements in pre-school services
Ref:	06/2026

1. Background

First aid is a regulatory requirement under the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

Within a Pre-school service it is the responsibility of the Registered Provider to ensure the service has enough staff appropriately trained in accredited first aid and are available in case of any injury or sudden illness. The number of staff with this training will depend on the number and needs of children attending the service and the rosters applied.

Requirements include:

- The number of people trained in accredited first aid and available for first aid response is based on the service's documented risk assessments, including the size of the service and the hazards identified.
- At least one person trained in accredited first aid is available to the children while the service is in operation.
- At least one person trained in accredited first aid is available to the children when on outings.
- A list of people trained in accredited first aid is available.
- In-date certification for each trained staff member is available.

It must be noted that there are other regulatory requirements under the Safety Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007 in relation to first aid at places of work including provision of first aid equipment, occupational first aiders and first aid rooms - S.I. No. 299/2007 - Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007.

The Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) is the independent statutory body which regulates pre-hospital emergency care in Ireland. The education and training standard established by the PHECC is recognised by Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate as being inclusive of content and instruction relating to first aid for children.

PHECC have now developed an additional accredited 1day First Aid training course:

- First Aid Essentials- Paediatric First Aid.

2. Decision of the Early Years Inspectorate

Pre-Schools must comply with the requirements of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016, Regulation 25(1) First aid: "*A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.*"

3. Established Position Effective September 2026

In response to the development of the new PHECC accredited first aid course, the PHECC approved first aid certificates that are considered as meeting the requirements of the Regulations now includes "First Aid Essentials- Paediatric First Aid". The full list of PHECC accredited first aid courses is as follows:

1. Emergency First Responder

2. Medical Technician Paramedic

3. Advanced Paramedic qualification

4. First Aid Responder (FAR)

5. First Aid Essentials: Paediatric first aid.

A list of PHECC Recognised Institutions and Approved Training Institutions (RI/ATIs) that can deliver the above courses, can be found here on the PHECC website: https://www.phecit.ie/PHECC/Education_and_careers/RI_and_courses/Recognised_institutions_and_courses.aspx
(Only PHECC RI/ATIs should be used to deliver PHECC accredited first aid courses).

4. Support

Any queries regarding this Notice can be submitted to rpdd@tusla.ie