

First Aid and Basic Life Support for Children - 7 Minute Briefing



Following the 2025 North Central London (NCL) Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) review, it is recommended that staff in schools and wider children's services (e.g. Family Hubs, Transport Teams, After School Clubs) receive first aid and basic life support training and have access to appropriate equipment.

This recommendation is informed by several CDOP-reviewed child deaths. Some deaths occurred in regulated settings, while some occurred in settings that were not specific for children, but where children frequently attend. In some cases, gaps in staff training or equipment access were identified. Although these factors were not found to have influenced the outcomes, they highlight the critical need for preparedness across all settings.

Staff are encouraged to share the below key messages with relevant services and consider how to support their implementation.

1

Training Resources

First aid and basic life support training are vital for staff working with children, as they provide the skills and confidence needed to respond effectively in emergencies. The Camden first aid resource guide, available [here](#), includes information about where to access training. Please share with staff who work with children in your networks.

2

Refreshing training

Regularly refreshing first aid knowledge helps staff to stay confident in their skills. It is important to repeat training at regular intervals or when circumstances change (e.g. change in role, children getting older, or changes in staffing).

3

First Aid Equipment

Organisations should ensure staff have access to the right first aid equipment for the situation and children they are responsible for, be trained to use it confidently, and know how to access it in an emergency.

4

Specialist Medical Equipment

Schools and childcare settings should have access to specialist medical equipment or devices, if needed. This will be dependent on children's specific health needs and can sometimes be provided by parents/carers. Where necessary, staff should be trained and confident in the use of any specialist equipment. This can be agreed via individual healthcare plans. More information can be found [here](#).

5

Individual Healthcare Plans

Schools caring for children at risk of sudden health events (e.g. allergies, heart disease, certain congenital anomalies, severe asthma) should have individual healthcare plans in place. These should be reviewed at least annually, or sooner if needs change. Plans should be developed jointly by the school, parents/carers and relevant healthcare professional, and should include emergency procedures. All relevant staff should be aware of emergency symptoms and procedures. Guidance on [supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#) is available and may also be helpful for other settings who care for children with medical needs.

6

Support for staff

Ongoing support should be provided to staff who support children who are at risk of sudden health events, to ensure staff feel prepared to respond to a medical event. Support should recognise the potential emotional impact of this responsibility on staff and additional wellbeing support should be provided to staff after an emergency incident occurs.

7

Training for Parents/Carers

Training opportunities and first aid information (including reminders to refresh training) should be shared with parents/carers, so they can access first aid training themselves. You can utilise the 'NCL first aid communications resources' to help to share this information with your networks. Contact laura.ruff@camden.gov.uk to access these resources.