



INFO SHEET 1a Adult/Child Ratios

Never work alone with a group or individual child/young person

If you provide activities for under eight's for two hours or more on a regular basis then seek advice from your local Social Services. They will give you support and advice on how to register your group. There must be enough adults for the numbers of children/young people in the group. The ratios given below are a minimum and may need to be increased for groups with special needs. Sometimes an extra adult with a willingness to listen or be an extra pair of hands is invaluable.

Indoor Activities

These are acceptable minimum ratios for adults to children, but ideally they should be higher. On no account should a worker be by themselves. The minimum number of adults should always be two and preferably three, one of whom should be female.

The ratios required under The Children Act 1989 are:

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 0 – 2 years | 1 volunteer to 3 children |
| 2 – 3 years | 1 volunteer to 4 children |
| 3 – 7 years | 1 volunteer to 8 children |

8 Years and Over

The Children Act specifies the ratios for under eight's. The recommended ratios for children over eight and young people are:

- Up to 20 children/young people – 2 adults (preferably one of each gender)

- One additional adult for every 1-10 extra children/young people

Example:

20 children = 1 male and 1 female adult (at least)

21 children = 1 male and 1 female + 1 extra adult

30 children = 1 male and 1 female + 1 extra adult

31 children = 1 male and 1 female + 2 extra adults.

Outdoor Activities

Events in the neighbourhood of the building require the same care and attention during the planning stage. The adult/child ratio should be increased.

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 0 – 2 years | 1 volunteer to 3 children |
| 2 -3 years | 1 volunteer to 4 children |
| 3 -7 years | 1 volunteer to 6 children |

8 – 13 years

Up to 15 children/young people, 2 adults (preferably one of each gender)

1 additional adult for every 1 – 8 extra children/young people

13 years and over

Up to 20 young people, 2 adults (preferably one of each gender)

1 additional adult for every 1 – 10 young people.

Going Abroad

The recommended ratio is one adult for every ten young people. It is essential to have male and female staff for mixed groups. Remember that the programme and nature of the group need to be taken into consideration and no fewer than 3 volunteers should accompany a group of 10. Monitoring activity in smaller groups with frequent head counts is recommended.

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