



Ratios: are there prescribed adult leader to young person ratios for off-site activities?

Other than in Early Years settings, there are no prescribed ratios.

You must risk assess the needs of the actual group you are leading with a view to ensuring that the level of supervision meets the legal expectations of "effective supervision". This is best done by consideration of the following factors:

- **S**taffing: who is needed/available? The plan must work within the limits of available numbers, abilities and experience.
- **A**ctivities to be undertaken: what do you want the group to do and what is possible?
- **G**roup characteristics: prior experience, abilities, behaviour and maturity, any specific or medical/dietary needs.
- **E**nvironment: indoors or out; a public space or restricted access; urban, rural or remote; quiet or crowded; within the establishment grounds, close to the establishment or at a distance. Do not overlook environments to be passed through between venues and the ease of communications between the group and base. For residential visits consider the accommodation and surrounding area. For outdoor environments, consider remoteness, the impact of weather, water levels and ground conditions.

Some guidance documents suggest numbers appropriate to age ranges, but this is always with a proviso that this is only a starting point for consideration.

Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework sets out specific legal requirements for ratios in this age group. These must be applied during outings as well as during onsite activity. First Aid requirements also apply to outings. For further information, please see 4.3b "*Ratios and Effective Supervision*" and 4.4b "*First Aid*".

