

Leader to Participants Ratios

Children and Young People

These are the minimum staffing levels for children's groups and are based on NSPCC guidance.

0 – 2 years	1 adult to 3 children	1:3
2 – 3 years	1 adult to 4 children	1:4
4 – 8 years	1 adult to 6 children	1:6
9 – 12 years	1 adult to 8 children	1:8
13 – 18 years	1 adult to 10 children	1:10

Each group should have at least two workers, even for smaller groups, and if possible one male and one female. Staff ratios for all groups should always be based on a risk assessment. For example staff numbers would need to be increased for outdoor activities and may also vary depending on:

- The nature and duration of activities
- The competence and experience of staff involved
- The requirements of location
- Any additional needs or disabilities
- The specialist equipment needed

If young people are helping to supervise younger children, only people aged 18 or over should be included as adults when calculating adult to child ratios.

Adults

People organising activities for children and young people are used to thinking about ratios of adults to children; it is worth thinking about this for activities involving adults who may be at risk as well. We recommend a minimum of two helpers for any activity (one male and one female if you have a mixed group) but preferably three for groups of up to 20; more for larger groups.