

CHILD EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION

The following guidelines (amended in 2000) apply to children aged 9 or older:

There is no limit to the number of days that a child can work in a year.
(Recently amended from a limit of 80 days).

A child may attend the place of work for up to 9½ hours a day, working for up to 4 hours

LICENCES

- The employer/producer must apply to the local authority (in the area where the child lives) for a child's performance licence.
- The application form should be completed by the employer and the parent/guardian, and submitted to the authority at least 21 days before the child is to be employed.

TIME AT PLACE OF WORK

- A child may be present at the place of work any time between 7am and 7pm (extended from 9am to 7pm).

HOURS AT PLACE OF WORK

- A child may attend the place of performance or rehearsal for up to 9½ hours a day (an increase from 8 hours).
- In a period of 4 hours at the place of work 2 breaks are required – a meal break of 1 hour and a rest break of 15 minutes.
- In a period of 8 hours at the place of work 2 meal breaks and 1 rest break are required.

HOURS OF WORK PER DAY

- A child can take part in a performance or rehearsal for up to 4 hours per day (an increase from 3½ hours).
- An interval or rest is required after 1 hour of continuous work.

DAYS OF WORK PER WEEK

- A child may take part in rehearsals or performances for 5 days in a 7 day period.

EDUCATION NEEDS

- A child may receive 3 hours of education per day on school days.
- These hours can be aggregated over a period of 4 weeks (amended as previously hours could only be banked if working on location).
- A child must be educated for no less than 6 hours per week, and no more than 5 hours per day.

MATRONS

- The licensing authority must approve the appointment of a matron responsible for the child's welfare and to ensure that work regulations are adhered to.
- Matrons can care for up to 12 children at a time. A teacher may also take the role of matron and can care for up to 3 children at a time.

MEDICALS

- A medical examination of the child by a school medical officer or other qualified person is necessary in order to obtain a license.
- Further medicals are required after every 4 weeks of filming.

Please note these are guidelines only. UK Film Council International has extracted this information from **The Children (Performances) Regulations 1968** and **The Children (Performances) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2000**.

We advise producers/those responsible for employing a child to read the full regulations and amendments and consider their implications as we are unable to provide a complete synopsis here.