

Responding to Injuries

We all must be prepared to respond when a child or staff member is hurt. Reread the scenarios from the *Learn* section of this lesson and describe what you would do in each.

Scenario 1: As Simone climbs the ladder on the slide, she twists her ankle and falls backwards onto the ground. Her left foot is turned at an awkward angle.

Is this a life threatening injury?

No, this does not appear to be a life threatening injury. Simone needs medical care for her foot. It is possible she has broken a bone. If Simone also hit her head and there is any risk of a head injury, this could be a life threatening injury.

What would you do?

Contact Simone's parents or guardian. See medical attention as quickly as possible. Continue to monitor Simone's health. If she has difficulty breathing or if she hit her head, call 911 immediately.*

Scenario 2: Dante and Claire are chasing one another on the paved path through their play area. Dante trips and skins his knee.

Is this a life threatening injury?

No, this is not a life threatening injury.

What would you do?

Use your basic first aid training and your first aid kit. Wash your hands and put on gloves. Clean the wound. Apply pressure to stop the bleeding. Apply a sterile adhesive bandage.

Scenario 3: Madison and Tristan are riding trikes down a path that goes down a slight hill. Madison stops his trike at the bottom of the hill. Tristan can't stop in time and runs into Madison. Both trikes fall over on top of the children. Madison hits his mouth on the bar of his trike and loses a tooth.

Is this a life threatening injury?

No, this does not appear to be a life threatening injury. Just like with Simone in the first scenario, though, any evidence of a head injury could be life threatening.

What would you do?

Follow your program's first aid procedures for dental emergencies. Preserve the tooth and apply pressure to stop the bleeding. Call Madison's parents or guardians. Seek prompt medical attention.

Scenario 4: Luke drops his favorite piece of artwork on the way to his dad’s car. It flutters into the parking lot and he dashes out to catch it. The oncoming vehicle cannot stop in time to miss him.

Is this a life threatening injury?

We do not know the details, but this should be treated as a life threatening injury.

What would you do?

Make sure it is safe for you and other responders to go to Luke. If it is, go to Luke to assess the situation and perform immediate first aid. Direct one person, by name, to call 911. Direct another individual to block and redirect traffic. Do not move Luke unless it is absolutely unsafe for him to stay in place.

Scenario 5: Luis brings you a handful of “candy” that he found on the floor. When you look closely, you see they are actually pills that must have fallen out of an adult’s purse. Luis has swallowed some of the pills but you cannot determine how many.

Is this a life threatening injury?

Yes, this should be treated as a life threatening emergency. We do not know what kind of pills these are or how many Luis has ingested.

What would you do?

Call 911 (or local EMS in international locations) or Poison Control (1-800-222-1222). Immediately take the pills from Luis and be prepared to describe them to the dispatcher. Follow the directions the dispatcher gives you. Look for the pill bottle to identify the pills.

Scenario 6: Millie is giggling with her friends during lunch. Suddenly her face turns red, her eyes get wide, and she cannot make any sounds. It appears that Millie is choking.

Is this a life threatening injury?

Yes, this is a life threatening injury.

What would you do?

Use your first aid training. Perform quick, upward abdominal thrusts (Heimlich maneuver) until the object is dislodged. If Millie loses consciousness and is still not breathing, perform CPR as you were trained. Call 911.

**Note: Outside of the Continental United States (OCOTUS), use local procedures for contacting emergency medical services.*