How many hours can my child take part in a performance?

There are strict rules about the number of performances a child can take part in per week and for how many hours per day. This can vary dependent on the age of the child.

Who looks after my child whilst they are performing?

All children and young people must be looked after either by their own parent, a registered chaperone or in some circumstances can be looked after by their school teacher.

You cannot look after another child other than your own (even with parental permission) unless you are a registered chaperone. If you wish to apply to become a registered chaperone visit www.salford.gov.uk/children-entertainment and download an application form.

We would urge you to check who is looking after your child and whether they have a valid chaperone licence.

This leaflet details the general rules in relation to children taking part in entertainment. Should you require further information please contact:

The Child Employment and Entertainment Licensing Officer on 0161 803 4350 or email childemployment@salford.gov.uk
Regulations are in force to protect your child whilst they are taking part in a performance.

This guide will give parents more information about the laws that exist to protect the welfare of children and young people whilst they are performing, and prevent them from being exploited.

Does my child need a licence?
All children under the statutory school leaving age, even babies, need a licence. There are a few exceptions but if your child will miss school for rehearsals or performances s/he must have a licence. Your child does not need a licence once s/he is past the official school leaving age, i.e. after the last Friday in June of the school year in which s/he is 16 (year 11).

If your child is involved in anything to do with entertainment and no one has mentioned a licence, get in touch with us and we’ll let you know whether your child should be licensed.

It is illegal for your child to perform without a licence but also, your child may not be covered by insurance if they are injured as a result of an accident that happened at the place of performance.

What is a performance?
A performance will cover a stage show, TV programmes and commercials, singing and dancing at community festivals and modelling assignments. It can even extend to paid sport. The local authority decides which activities are covered by this requirement for a licence.

How do I apply for a licence?
If your child is involved in any show, amateur or professional, including dance shows, the producer should apply for the licence. If your child is registered with an agent, you will need to check that the production company is applying for the licence and not the agent themselves.

Even if your child is performing outside of Salford, the licence has to be issued by Salford City Council. The producer fills in the part of the form and there is another part for the parent to complete. You will also need to complete a medical declaration form.

Once you have completed your part and the medical declaration form, you will need to give it back to the producer along with a copy of the child’s birth certificate, together with a photograph of your child.

If your child requires time off school for the performance, we will need a letter from the school authorising the absence.

We will send you a copy of the licence once it has been issued.

Is there a time limit to apply for a performance licence?
Your child needs to have their licence before the performance take place. The law allows us to ask for 21 days to process a licence application but at most times during the year, we ask for the application to be sent to us at least seven days before the show starts.

We always try our best to issue a licence but sometimes if the licence is very late, we may not be able to do so.

Schools (excluding dance schools) are exempt from needing a licence for performances arranged by the school.