

Professional Child Performance

A Parent's Quick Guide

Professional child performance can be exciting, rewarding and a great experience for a young person. It can also bring a lot of new responsibilities for parents – licensing, agents, contracts, education, chaperones, travel and safeguarding.

You don't need to know everything from the beginning. The important thing is knowing **what questions to ask, where to find reliable information, and what to do if something doesn't feel right.**

The full NNCEE Parent Guide

This quick guide is a starting point. The full **NNCEE Parent Guide to Child Performance** contains more detailed information on licensing, education, chaperones, travel, contracts, finances, digital rights, safeguarding and the parent journey.

[Read the full NNCEE Parent Guide to Child Performance](#)

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Check the licence and education arrangements

Most children of compulsory school age who perform professionally will need a **Child Performance Licence**. The production normally applies to the Local Authority where your child lives.

You may be asked for:

- a birth certificate or passport
- a recent photograph
- a medical declaration
- information about access or additional needs

Be honest about medical or access requirements. This information is there to help keep your child safe.

On longer jobs, tutoring should be arranged with the production and should support the work your child is doing at school.

Find out more:

[NNCEE – The Licensing Process](#)

[NNCEE – Education on Set: Tutors](#)

Know who is responsible for your child

When your child is working without you, an approved chaperone is the responsible adult from sign-in until sign-out.

The chaperone is there to protect your child's **safety, welfare and comfort**. They can raise concerns or pause work if your child is overtired, unwell, distressed or working in unsuitable conditions.

Find out more: [NNCEE – Working with Chaperones](#)

Your child has a right to say no

Your child should understand what they are being asked to do and should never feel pressured into something that is unsafe, inappropriate or uncomfortable.

As a parent, ask questions. Find out about:

- difficult or sensitive scenes

- physical contact
- costumes or changing arrangements
- stunts or special effects
- anything that could be upsetting or embarrassing
- what safety measures are in place

You can ask to see the relevant risk assessment and challenge changes made at the last minute.

Find out more: [NNCEE – Informed Consent & Exploitation](#)

Protect their privacy

Think carefully about what information about your child is publicly available.

Check photographs, social media accounts and professional profiles. Avoid sharing information that could make it easy for someone to identify or contact your child directly.

Also think about what you post about jobs, locations, costumes or experiences. Once something is online, you may not be able to control where it goes.

Find out more: [NNCEE – Industry Foundations](#)

Understand the money and contracts

Professional work brings contracts, fees, expenses, tax, usage rights and sometimes residual payments.

Before agreeing to a job, make sure you understand:

- what your child will be paid
- what the payment covers
- where and for how long their image or performance can be used
- any exclusivity or options
- expenses and travel arrangements
- what your child is being asked to sign

Keep copies of contracts, invoices and payment records.

For more complicated legal or financial questions, consider getting independent professional advice.

Find out more: [NNCEE – Legal, Financial & Digital Rights](#)

Travel and accommodation

Jobs can involve early starts, long journeys, touring or overnight stays.

Before the job starts, make sure you know:

- where your child needs to be and when
- who is taking them and collecting them
- who their responsible adult will be
- where they will be staying
- how you will contact them
- what the arrangements are if something changes

Keep important contact numbers with you.

Find out more: [NNCEE – Travel & Accommodation](#)

If something doesn't feel right

Trust your instincts.

You don't need to wait until you are certain that something is wrong before asking a question.

If your child is in immediate danger:

STOP → Speak to the chaperone → Ask what the safety arrangements are → Remove your child if the risk isn't addressed → Escalate the concern.

If a boundary has been crossed:

Write down what happened while it is fresh in your mind. Speak to the chaperone or the production's safeguarding lead and contact your agent. If necessary, raise the concern with the Local Authority.

If licensing or legal requirements aren't being followed:

Ask questions and raise the issue with the production. If it isn't resolved, contact the relevant Local Authority.

If your child becomes unwell or distressed:

Their health comes first. Speak to the chaperone and appropriate medical or safeguarding staff and make sure the production knows about relevant medical or access needs.

Find out more:

[NNCEE – Emergency Protocols](#)

[NNCEE – Health, Wellbeing & Safeguarding](#)

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