BOOK REVIEW

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'Pediatric First Aid for Caregivers and Teachers'

by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Jones Bartlett Publishers,
Sudbury Massachusetts, 2005.

72 pages. ISBN 0763730904. RRP \$AUD20.35

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Pediatric First Aid for Caregivers and Teachers is a small US publication that is easy to read for those involved in the care of small children both in the home environment and in care centers or schools. The book is well set out and contains easy to follow flow charts, examples in pictorial form and tips in easily identified boxes.

The topic outlines follow sound educational principles and include an objectives list, content that provides enough information without becoming too technical, a post test and a set of term definitions. The topics are varied enough to ensure major pediatric illness and injury is covered. The set up and flow of the topics is logical and easy to follow. The text presents useful descriptors for 'eight-step' pediatric first aid. This tool is the foundation assessment tool and is used in every chapter and acts to ensure a sensible, systematic approach to all possible scenarios. Not only does it include assessment of the ill child, but it ensures scene safety, care of other children and post situation follow – up and debrief.

The text is centered in the US context, and some variation for the Australian setting is required, including:

- Conversion of Fahrenheit temperature to Celsius
- Addition of Australian snakes and spiders and management of same
- Revision of information regarding rabies

- Addition of the Australian Poisons Information Centre contact details
- Removal of chest thrusts in airway obstruction topic

Users in other settings should note these differences. The text makes use of the mnemonic 'ABC' in which 'A' describes 'appearance'. The popular convention in ABC is that 'A' as Airway. This may be confusing for those who have completed first aid previously. Airway assessment is covered in relevant areas within the text, such as breathing difficulties.

This book is an excellent tool for a pediatric first aid course and I happily recommend its use by parents and others caring for children.