

Question	Answer(s)	Answer(s)
Joint units		
We run a joint Rainbow/Brownie unit - I am very concerned about age appropriate activities to use.	Answered in event video	There are many joint units. You can do things like play games as a whole unit and then let the girls work in their section on unit meeting activities, skills builders etc. Rainbows can do stages 1 and 2 skills builders and Brownies can do stages 2 and 3. For 4-year-olds we would recommend starting at stage 1.
When running a joint Rainbow and Brownie unit would you recommend separate grouping for activities, do you anticipate adapting the activities adding to work load ?	Answered in event video	We would recommend separate groupings for section specific activities. For example, you can let the girls work in their section on unit meeting activities and skills builders.
Starting school		
Do you take girls before they have started school?	Answered in event video	It's down to in individual units to decide whether you take in girls before they've started school. In Ulster, they wait until the girl has been in school for a term before they start Rainbows. It is entirely up to you. You can have conversations with parents to find out if the girl is ready and also add it into your risk assessment.
Parents are reluctant for the girls to start early! We have offered and they say they are finding school so tiring that they want to delay till January!! Is this common or is it just local to us please?	Answered in event video	This is pretty common. Girls can join when the leadership team and the parents feel they're ready.
Early adopters		
Can units take 4-year-olds if they didn't sign up to be early adopters?		Yes they can. Rainbow units in Scotland, Wales and Ulster can take in 4-year-olds when the leadership team are ready to.
Can we just start accepting 4 year olds without any extra training?		You've already been trained to run your unit - so no extra training is required.
Age gap		
How do you manage with such a large age gap ? Big difference between a four year old and a seven year old ready for brownies. :)		One of the Ulster leaders has written a case study. She explains what she does in her unit which will help you https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/our-stories-and-news/blogs/its-not-much-different-for-a-4-year-old-to-join-rainbows-than-it-is-a-5-year-old/
How does work when mix of ages 4 ,5, 6 year old?	Answered in event video	One of the Ulster leaders has written a case study. She explains what she does in her unit which will help you https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/our-stories-and-news/blogs/its-not-much-different-for-a-4-year-old-to-join-rainbows-than-it-is-a-5-year-old/
4-year-old's abilities		
Will we be able to be explicit about a 4YO's abilities eg writing name, go to the loo, able to be safe with a pair of scissors etc?!		It's very similar to how you adapt to different girls' abilities in your unit already. One of the Ulster leaders has written a case study. She explains what she does in her unit. https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/our-stories-and-news/blogs/its-not-much-different-for-a-4-year-old-to-join-rainbows-than-it-is-a-5-year-old/
Any ideas for games/activities more specific to 4 year olds? It is difficult for those 4 year olds who can't read/write their names yet, but the older Rainbows can.	Answered in event video	We have developed a list of activities that can be adapted for 4-year-olds. They are included in this email.

We find it easy for girls to achieve enough SBs and UMAs within 2 years to get to Gold, without really trying. How do you spread the programme over the 3 years without finding girls have got Gold in 2 years and don't have anything else to achieve?		It's great that you are finding it easy for girls to complete the programme in Rainbows. Don't forget that you don't need to be doing the programme activities in every meeting, so feel free to add in your own activities and other things that the girls want to do during some of your meetings. Rainbows can also do Stage 2 skills builders, so if you are able to split your unit into smaller groups, you could give the older girls the chance to complete the Stage 2 activities which will be a bit more challenging for them. Also, just because a girl has completed the required amount of unit meeting activity minutes needed for a Theme award doesn't mean that she can't still enjoy additional activities in that theme during her time in Rainbows.
Ratios		
What is the ratio of leaders to girls once 4 year olds join?	Answered in event video	The ratios aren't changing, either for normal unit meetings or for activities outside the meeting place. The information at https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/making-guiding-happen/running-your-unit/safeguarding-and-risk/adult-to-child-ratios/ is all up to date. Even for 4-year Rainbows it's 1 adult for every 5 with a minimum of 2 adults and a suggested maximum unit size of 18.
Do outdoor ratios change from 1:4 if the Rainbows are only 4?	Answered in event video	The ratios aren't changing, either for normal unit meetings or for activities outside the meeting place. The information at https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/making-guiding-happen/running-your-unit/safeguarding-and-risk/adult-to-child-ratios/ is all up to date. Even for 4-year Rainbows it's 1 adult for every 5 with a minimum of 2 adults and a suggested maximum unit size of 18.
What is the ratio for days out and overnights? Will it be kept the same?	Answered in event video	The ratios aren't changing, either for normal unit meetings or for activities outside the meeting place. The information at https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/making-guiding-happen/running-your-unit/safeguarding-and-risk/adult-to-child-ratios/ is all up to date. Even for 4-year Rainbows at a unit meeting it's 1 adult for every 5 with a minimum of 2 adults and a suggested maximum unit size of 18.
Will the ratios number change if we take 4 year olds		The ratios aren't changing, either for normal unit meetings or for activities outside the meeting place. The information at https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/making-guiding-happen/running-your-unit/safeguarding-and-risk/adult-to-child-ratios/ is all up to date. Even for 4-year Rainbows at a unit meeting it's 1 adult for every 5 with a minimum of 2 adults and a suggested maximum unit size of 18.
Leadership team		
We have a leadership team of 2 (sometimes 3), any thoughts on how possible it is to run a unit with 4 YOs, limited leaders and a unit of 16?		It is possible to run an exciting programme with a limited number of leaders. You may also use it as an opportunity to encourage parents to help out from time to time if there are activities you want to do with the unit and need a little more help.
Do we need a leader to be solely there for the 4 year olds as they need a lot more 121 help and this takes away from the other girls.	Answered in event video	No you don't need someone solely for the 4 year olds. Our rules on ratios are staying the same for Rainbows (1:5, minimum of 2 adults, suggested max unit size of 18) but of course it is up to you how best to manage the Rainbows in your unit between your leadership team.
Length of meeting time		
at the moment we run rainbows for one hour can this be extend like brownies & guides		It's entirely up to you and your team to decide how long you want the meeting to be. The following link has information which may help you https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/making-guiding-happen/running-your-unit/starting-a-new-unit/meeting-places-and-times/ .
How long do you meet for with such a large number of leaders. We struggle to get leaders full stop?????		Please see answer above. We are continuing to support with volunteer recruitment with a national marketing campaign going live in early next year. We also have a toolkit available to help you with local recruitment. https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/making-guiding-happen/growing-our-membership/recruiting-and-retaining-volunteers/welcoming-and-inducting-volunteers/toolkit-for-a-warm-welcome/