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Sommario/riassunto	There is a dearth of written work relating specifically to the emergency care of the child. Why this should be the case is perhaps not as perplexing as it may initially appear: although children make up between 25% and 30% of the attendance of many emergency departments, constituting approximately 3.5 million attendances a year (Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) 1999, 2007), there has until recently been little specific provision made for them. Whilst not addressing all of the challenges it is hoped that this work will provide some of the necessary knowledge for emergency nu