

## Childrenite - $\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{Al}(\text{PO}_4)(\text{OH})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$

Hardness = 5. Cleavage: Poor/indistinct. Brittle; soft. Large crystals may be fractured and thus do not tolerate sonication. Soluble in acids especially HCl. Recommended not to remove iron stains by chemical means. Stable to  $\text{NH}_4\text{HF}_2$ .

Forms a solution series with the  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  end member eosphorite -  $\text{Mn}^{2+}\text{Al}(\text{PO}_4)(\text{OH})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The two species are visually indistinguishable and may be intergrown.

### References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-1003.html>

Handbook of Mineralogy: <https://www.handbookofmineralogy.org/pdfs/childrenite.pdf>

Hardinger, S. (2025) Mineral Specimen Cleaning and Development for the Amateur, 339 p.

Sinkankas, J. (1972) Gemstone & Mineral Data Book, 346 p. Winchester Press, New York.