

Rough Play

Child Care Learning Centers: 591-1-1-.03(9) Staff shall not engage in, or allow children or other adults to engage in, activities that could be detrimental to a child’s health or well-being, such as but not limited to, horse play, rough play, wrestling, and picking up a child in a manner that could cause injury.

Family Child Care Learning Homes: 290-2-3-.09(8) The Provider shall not engage in or allow children or other adults to engage in activities that could be detrimental to a child’s health or well-being such as, but not limited to, horse play, rough play, wrestling, and picking up a child in a manner that could cause injury.

Rule Type: Non-Core Rule

Intent of the Rule

To ensure that children enrolled in the child care program are protected from unintentional injury. To ensure that interactions between children and activities they participate in are safe and age-appropriate.

Clarification

Children should be allowed to participate in activities that are not detrimental to the child’s health or well-being. Positive interactions between teachers and children are an important part of quality care. Staff should talk to children about their play, help play develop by providing the right materials and equipment and encourage children to interact well with others. Children participate in physical play for active fun and enjoyment, not to display aggression or hurt another child. Appropriate physical play should be supported and supervised to allow opportunities for many social, physical and cognitive skills. Staff should intervene immediately if play becomes too rough or if the nature of the play is not appropriate for the age of the children. Play that isn’t respectful of the participants should be redirected to appropriate play and to allow plenty of active play.

Indicators

- ✓ Child care program staff must not allow children to engage in activities that could be detrimental to a child’s health or well-being.
 - Note: Staff must intervene when children are playing inappropriately or using equipment incorrectly (e.g., play fighting, jumping on each other, standing in swings, climbing up slides backwards, etc.).
 - Reminder: When necessary, it is acceptable to physically remove (in a gentle, non-harmful manner) a child from a potentially harmful situation.
 - TIP: Additional information regarding age-appropriate physical development activities for children birth to five years of age can be found in the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS) at: www.gelds.decal.ga.gov

- ✓ Child care program staff or other adults must not engage in activities that could be detrimental to a child’s health or well-being.
 - Note: Staff must ensure that children are not handled in a way that could possibly harm them (e.g., picking a child up by the arm or wrist, pulling a child by a piece of clothing, etc.).
 - Reminder: Adults (staff and non-staff) must ensure that their verbal and physical interactions with children are appropriate and that staff intervene when necessary.

- TIP: Create a cohesive classroom environment (e.g., sense of belonging, nurturing and support) and cooperation (e.g., see things from another's point of view, work together, negotiate, problem solve, share, accept and help one another) during structured and unstructured times.

Resources:

Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition

<http://cfoc.nrckids.org>