

Supervision

Child Care Learning Centers: 591-1-1-.32(7) - Children shall be supervised at all times. "Supervision" means that the appropriate number of Staff members are physically present in the area where children are being cared for and are providing watchful oversight to the children, chaperons and Students-in-Training. The persons supervising in the child care area must be alert, able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of the children being supervised, as well as the actions of the chaperons and Students-in-Training, and provide timely attention to the children's actions and needs.

Family Child Care Learning Homes: 290-2-3-.07(14) - At least one Adult with a satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check Determination shall supervise Children at all times. Plans shall be made to obtain additional adult help in cases of emergencies. **290-2-3-.03(u)** - "Supervision" and "Supervised" means that the Provider or authorized Adult providing care is alert, is providing watchful oversight to the Children, is able to respond promptly to the needs and actions of Children and can intervene promptly in the case of an emergency.

Rule Type: Core Rule

Intent of the Rule

To intentionally protect children physically, emotionally, and mentally from harm and/or injury. To protect children's health and to promote positive growth and development. To ensure that children receive appropriate care at all times.

Clarification

Supervision is basic to safety and the prevention of injury, and it is the most important element in providing safe child care. Child care program staff who know what to expect are better able to protect children from harm. For supervision to be effective, caregivers must maintain watchful oversight. Watchful oversight is the process of actively monitoring children's activities and requires that the appropriate number of caregiver staff be present in the area with children at all times. Staff must be able to hear and see all the children in their care all of the time, and they must be alert and able to respond quickly to children's actions and needs. (See indicators below for additional details regarding program types.)

Indicators

Indicator: Caregiver staff must be present in areas with children at all times.

- In a Child Care Learning Center, the required number of staff must be physically present at all times in any area where children are present.
- In a Family Child Care Learning Home, an adult must be present inside the home and on the same level as the children whenever any children are inside and outside the home whenever any children are outside.

<p>Tips:</p> <p>☐ Staff:child ratio requirements are listed in the Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning Rules for each program type.</p>	<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>☐ Consider using communication equipment (e.g., walkie-talkies, intercom systems, cell phones) so that caregivers can alert administrators, floaters, etc.,</p>	<p>Notes:</p> <p>☐ Supervision requirements also apply to:</p> <p>☐ Children’s presence on vehicles/all transportation activities</p>
<p>☐ Keep emergency supplies and basic first-aid materials available on the playground. This allows caregivers to tend to children’s needs without leaving the playground or waiting on additional staff to relieve them.</p>	<p>☐ whenever they need to step away from their assigned area. Ensure that additional staff (e.g., director, assistant director, or cook) are on the premises and are available to relieve caregivers when needed.</p>	<p>☐ Excursions/field trips away from the child care facility</p> <p>☐ Swimming activities</p>

Indicator: Caregiver staff must provide watchful oversight to children at all times.

<p>Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caregiver staff should scan and count children repeatedly throughout the day using a face-to-name procedure, especially when routines change and during transitions (i.e., arrival and departure times, going to or coming from the playground or the restroom, etc.). • Add bells or alarms to doors to help alert staff when a child enters or leaves a room. • Limit the number of classes or children who can be on the playground at one time to enable caregivers to easily monitor all children within their group. • Add children’s photos beside their names on all checklists. This helps to easily identify children during face-to-name head counts, especially at the start of a new school year when new children are enrolled, and when new staff and/or substitutes are present with the children. 	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom furniture and equipment should be waist height or shorter to enable caregivers to see and to hear children. • Activities should be conducted in close proximity to one another to enable staff to better supervise all of the children. • Small spaces should be kept free of clutter, and large spaces should be set up so that children have clear play spaces that are easy to observe. 	<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A child’s safety depends on staff knowing where every child is at all times. It requires focused attention and intentional observation of children. • In a Child Care Learning Center, caregivers must be able to see and hear all the children in their care at all times. Caregivers should be positioned strategically and should scan and circulate in areas occupied by children. • In a Family Child Care Learning Home, the provider (or another adult caregiver) must be able to hear the children at all times and must be on the same level or floor as the children. If not within line of sight, the provider must be aware of the children’s whereabouts and activities, and the doors between the areas occupied by the provider and the children must remain open.
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Indicator: Caregiver staff must be alert and responsive to children’s needs and actions at all times.

<p>Tip:</p> <p>□ As each child arrives for care, child care staff should complete a daily health check and obtain information from his/her parent or guardian that could affect the child’s normal daily behavior (e.g., lack of sleep, illness, etc.).</p>	<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>□ To ensure that supervision and support are not taken away from other children in the group, place additional caregivers in areas where children with challenging behaviors are present or where routine care activities like diaper changing are taking place.</p>	<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caregivers must remain in close proximity to children, and they must use what they know about each child’s individual interests, abilities, and behavior to anticipate and predict what the child will do. • Caregivers must be supportive of children’s activities by assisting, engaging, and redirecting as needed. They may offer different levels of assistance or redirection depending on each individual child’s needs. • The best way to keep children safe is for caregivers to be actively engaged with children. Children often challenge their own abilities but are not always able to recognize the potential risks involved.
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Resources:

Bright from the Start Rules and Regulations

<http://www.decal.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>

Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/health/safety-injury-prevention/safe-healthy-environments/activesupervision.html>

American Academy of Pediatrics Healthy Child Care America
<http://www.healthychildcare.org/standardofthemonth.html>

Caring for Our Children

<http://cfoc.nrckids.org/StandardView/2.2.0.1>

Northern Health www.northernhealth.ca