



Licensing Insights

EFFECTIVE SUPERVISION

Supervision is one of the most essential elements in the safety of children. In licensed care settings, licensees and employees need to actively supervise children to identify risks and minimize the potential for injury. Continuous supervision will also ensure that children's play is developmentally appropriate, and learning opportunities are promoted.

When supervising young children, it is essential to monitor what is happening on a continual basis so that you can appropriately intervene to protect the health and safety of persons in care when necessary. In the event of an incident, it is essential to provide a detailed account of what occurred, outline your facility's supervision protocols, and describe the preventative measures implemented to guarantee the safety of children and minimize any potential risks. Clear communication with families and employees is important to establish consistent and appropriate supervision.

Considerations that will contribute to effective supervision

1. Know each child's abilities.

- To supervise children effectively, caregivers must evaluate the individual needs of each child and tailor their supervision to align with those developmental requirements. While young children necessitate constant oversight, it is crucial for caregivers of older children to find a balance between providing adequate supervision and fostering their growing independence.

2. Establish clear and simple safety rules.

- Rules should focus on positive behaviours and interventions rather than on negative.

3. Scan the environment and be aware of potential hazards.

4. Observe the areas reflecting on the needs of the children in care.

5. Position yourself strategically.

- Your presence serves as a reminder of expectations and enables you to intervene appropriately when necessary.



6. Visually scan and circulate throughout the play area.

- Looking “up and out” and moving “with the action” are the best ways to be aware of the group as a whole and to anticipate potential trouble spots allows for observation and action. For example, facing the open play space while positioning yourself at the art table enables you to move quickly to the climber when you see the line-up growing if risk was observed.

7. Utilize redirection.

Supervision Tips

The following statements are indicators that may help determine if adequate supervision is occurring. They may also identify areas for improvement in practice and provide ideas for developing written policies and procedures which guide care providers in the care and supervision of children.

Furniture, equipment and play space is arranged strategically to assist with supervision.

Positioning and circulating the room enables sight and sound of children.

Accessible to assist children resolve conflict.

Scanning and observing children while they napping.

Using a portable telephone when on telephone to ensure supervision is maintained.

All the children are on the same level of the facility at one time.

Children go outside at the same time and are supervised.

All children are brought in from outside at the same time.

Children are monitored in the bathroom and privacy is respected.

Children are taken to the door if eyesight and proximity cannot be maintained when the someone is at the door.

Measures are enacted to ensure children cannot exit the facility unattended.

The activities and/or equipment are developmentally appropriate for the children in my care.

Preparation for operating the facility is completed in advance of children attending.

A second adult is immediately available to supervise children in the event of urgent and unforeseen circumstances.



Where can I find more information on supervision of children?



SCAN ME

If you have any questions about the supervision of children, or you would like to attend an information session, please contact Licensing Connect to speak to a licensing officer at 1.844.845.4200 or licensingconnect@northernhealth.ca.

For more information about the Community Care Facility Licensing program and to view the legislation visit the [Community Care Facility Licensing | Northern Health](#) website.