

# FAMILY DAY CARE AUSTRALIA

## CHECKPOINT SERIES

# SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN

The National Law requires that a family day care educator must ensure that children being educated and cared for as a part of a family day care service are adequately supervised at all times<sup>1</sup>.

The National Quality Standard outlines the importance of adequately supervising children at all times<sup>2</sup>.

## Key Points

There are a number of regulations that make reference to the supervision of children:

- 1) Regulation 101 (2) (f) – adequately supervising children during excursions;
- 2) Regulation 166 – supervision of children when visitors are present;
- 3) Regulation 168 – policies and procedures that ensure children’s safety; and
- 4) Regulation 176 – notifying the regulatory authority of incidents relating to supervision.

Supervision can be influenced by the following:

- the number, ages and abilities of children;
- the range of activities available for children;
- the location of the activities available to the children;
- how the environment is set up;
- how any identified environmental risks are managed;
- the knowledge and experience of the educator;
- whether children are awake or sleeping or a combination of both;

- the time of day;
- the weather; and
- who else is present in the environment.

In addition, educators should take into account the following considerations:

- Children’s safety is reliant on the supervision they receive.
- Adequate supervision involves the immediate ability for educators to respond to children in dangerous situations or during distress.
- Supervision incorporates active engagement with children and the knowledge of where children are. Having an understanding of where children are can include being within sight or sound.
- Different levels of supervision are required under various circumstances. Situations with higher risks such as excursions, water or nappy changing require more consideration.
- Different aged children will require varying levels of supervision.
- Adequate supervision will look different from one environment to another.

## FAMILY DAY CARE AUSTRALIA

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Please note that the information in this Fact Sheet represents general guidance only to encourage critical reflection on your practice. If the content raises any concerns for you, please check with your Coordinator or Service.

<sup>1</sup> Section 165, <sup>2</sup> Element 2.2.1

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### Checkpoint Questions

- Are you familiar with all your service's policies and procedures that reference supervision of children?
- Are you aware of the many influencing factors that can impact on supervision?
- Do you have management plans for any areas of risk within your service?
- Do you have access to information and / or training covering supervision?
- Do you set up activities to provide effective supervision?
- Do you maintain an awareness of where all the children are?

Have you considered how to manage supervision:

- when children are eating and drinking;
- during nappy change times;
- during toileting;
- at rest time;
- where circumstances such as excursions create a higher risk;
- at arrival and departure time;
- when there are a number of activities to supervise at once; and
- while visitors are present?

### Useful Resources

[Information sheet - ACECQA - Active supervision: Ensuring safety and promoting learning](#)

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