

Supervision

The child care rule defines appropriate supervision as being within sight or hearing of children under school age at all times. Caregivers must also be capable of intervening to protect the health and safety of children. For the school-ager, the caregiver must be available to provide assistance and care so their health and safety is protected.

As licensed child care providers, the fact is you are held to higher standards, for which children and their parents are grateful. –excerpt from the September, 1999 Licensing Line.

Here are things for child care providers to consider as they assess the supervision provided in their home:

- Where am I in proximity to all children?
- Is there always an adult present?
- Can I hear an infant or child in distress (not just crying) when they are in a different room? If not, do I have a baby monitor that I can use?
- Do I check on sleeping infants at least every 15 minutes?
- Can I hear children over the noise of the dishwasher, air conditioner, television etc...?
- If children under school age are outside, am I always able to get there quickly enough to protect them from harm?
- When children are in a vehicle, is there always an adult present with them?
- Do school age children ever leave my property? If so, do I have signed parental permission forms?

If providers have any questions about whether they are providing adequate supervision, they should contact their licensing social worker.