

Watch this! The Importance of Active Supervision



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Active supervision definition: Protecting children's safety by preventing risk to danger before it occurs and positioning to see and hear all surrounding areas in order to observe for risk. (Safety, Nutrition, and Health in Early Education, Robertson, 2014).

Supervision in Oklahoma licensing regulations:

From the 2018 OK Center Regulations:

340:110-3-287. Supervision

(a) Supervision. Supervision means the function of observing, overseeing, and guiding a child or group of children, including an awareness of, and responsibility for the ongoing activity of each child, and being near enough to intervene when needed. The program is required to maintain supervision at all times.

(b) Know children. Teaching personnel:

(1) recognize which children are assigned to their group; and

(2) are responsible for learning the behaviors, interests, and individual needs of each child in their group.

(c) Personal activities. Personnel do not participate in personal activities that could interfere with supervision, such as visitors, phone calls, or electronic device use.

From the FCCH 2018 regulations:

(B) Supervision of children means observing, overseeing, and guiding a child or group of children, including: (i) awareness of, and responsibility for, the ongoing activity of each child and, being near enough to intervene when needed; (ii) observation of infants at least every 15 minutes while awake or sleeping; and (iii) observation of children 1 year of age and older at least every 15 minutes while in cribs and playpens.

Consequences of not actively supervising: If a teacher does not actively supervise, it can lead to a legal term called negligence. The general standard used by courts in the United States requires that a person uses prudent, reasonable behavior. This assumes that a teacher will perform the assigned duties of supervision for whatever activity for which supervision is necessary, in close proximity and with the children in clear view. If a risky situation should occur, a teacher should do whatever is reasonable to try and prevent injury from happening or there is a possibility of being accused of negligent supervision. The younger the children in the environment, the more active supervision is required. Make sure activities are developmentally appropriate. (Safety, Nutrition, and Health in Early Education, Robertson, 2014)

References:

- Active Supervision: National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness (<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/safety-practices/article/active-supervision>) Self-reflection tool can be found here.
- Lessons from NAEYC Accreditation: Avoiding Lapses in Supervision That Place Children at Risk (<https://www.naeyc.org/files/academy/file/YCAccreditation.pdf>)
- Safety, Nutrition, and Health in Early Education; Robertson, 2014
- Virtual Lab School: Supervision and Accountability Indoors and Outdoors: <https://www.virtuallabschool.org/preschool/safe-environments/lesson-4> Hot Spot printable worksheet is located here.
- Active Supervision Printable Handout: <http://www.esc7.net/upload/page/0478/docs/16-17/active-supervision-handout.pdf>

First and last name:

OK Registry ID number:

Designation (center, family child care, Head Start, other):

E-mail to send certificate:

Wrap-up question:

What did you learn today that you will use as you return to your programs?