

Active Supervision at-a-Glance

SIX STRATEGIES TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

The following strategies allow children to explore their environments safely. Infants, toddlers, and preschoolers must be directly supervised at all times.



Set Up the Environment

Set up the environment so you can supervise children and are always able to reach them if necessary. Keep spaces clutter-free and place furniture so you can observe the whole room.



Position Staff

Plan where you and other staff position yourselves to see and hear all children. Make sure there are clear paths to where children are playing, sleeping, and eating. This allows you to react quickly when necessary and stay close to children who may need additional support.



Scan and Count

Always be aware of where every child is and what they are doing. Scan the entire environment and count children frequently, especially during transitions when moving from one location to another.



Listen

Listen closely to children to identify signs of potential danger. Specific sounds or the absence of them may be reason for concern. Listen for signs that a child is getting upset or for sounds in the environment, such as bells on the door that alert you when a child leaves or enters the room.



Anticipate Children's Behavior

Use what you know about each child's temperament, developmental abilities, interests, and skills to predict what the child may do next. Pay attention to changes in a child's mood or health and anticipate when they may wander off, get upset, or take a dangerous risk.



Engage and Redirect

Offer support by using what you know about each child's individual needs and development. Encourage children to solve problems on their own and help them develop solutions if needed. Offer different levels of assistance or redirection depending on each child's needs.

