

ANOKA COUNTY
Supervision Expectations
*Based on MN Rules Chapter 9502

- 📖 The caregiver must be able to either clearly see or hear all children under school age.
- 📖 The caregiver must be able to attend to any child immediately.
- 📖 A sleeping infant should be visually checked on at least every 15 minutes.
- 📖 It is best practice to use a monitor for any child under school age who is on a different level, or behind a closed door on the same level. Remember, monitors are never a substitute for direct care.

The child care rule defines supervision to mean the caregiver must be within sight or hearing of children under school age **at all times** and capable of intervening to protect the health and safety of children (must be able to attend to any child immediately). For the school-ager, the caregiver must be available to provide assistance and care, so their health and safety is protected.

The importance of supervision is not only to protect children from physical injury, but from harm that can occur from topics discussed by children or by teasing/bullying/inappropriate behavior. It is the responsibility of caregivers to monitor what the children are talking about and intervene when necessary.

Children who are presumed to be sleeping might be awake and in need of adult attention. A child's risk-taking behavior must be detected; and illness, fear or other stressful behaviors must be noticed and managed.

We ask that you take the time to re-evaluate how carefully children are being supervised and protected.

Things considered by licensors (not all inclusive):

- The layout of your home.
- Provider is within close proximity to all children:
 - In same room with awake infants and toddlers
 - On same level as children under school age
 - Napping children in rooms with monitors in use or on same level as provider with doors open.
- Best practices for when monitors are in use, music, fans, TV, dishwasher, air conditioning, or other noises do not prevent provider from hearing a child and being capable of intervening. Providers may have monitors in each room used for napping and or play. If adjacent rooms are used, doors must be open, and a monitor can be placed in the area between the rooms.
- Children under school age are within direct sight and direct access of the provider when outdoors.
- Provider is always present in the vehicle with children.
- Providers are expected to know and take into consideration children's behavior when leaving a room, making meals, or assisting children with toileting or other needs. For example, a child who is aggressive is not left unattended while provider assists a child with toileting or diapering or an infant is not left on the floor with mobile children while provider prepares meals.
- Providers have written parent permission for school-aged children to walk to the bus stop, or provider and all children go to the bus stop together.

If you have any questions about your current supervision practices, please talk to your licensing social worker.

Ultimately the safety of children and providers' liability hinges on successfully implementing a proactive supervision plan. Whether it is indoors or outdoors, remaining vigilant and active will help establish a positive, fun environment for both children and providers!