

## Children's Corner

### **Do You Know Where The Children Are? Ten Elements of Competent Supervision**

We know you care about children. Caring starts with supervising children, so that they are safe at all times.



In the last few months, several Westchester children were lost while attending regulated child care. In one instance, a child was left behind when a group came in from the playground. Another child was not seen leaving an outdoor play space and was found down the block by a stranger. A child was left behind when a group moved from one room to another.

This and more has happened in programs this summer, each time because of a lack of competent supervision. The good news is that all the children were found safely. **But the staff are now involved in Child Protective Services (CPS) cases and have lost their jobs. Programs have been fined and closed.**

Take this opportunity to review how well your staff is following your safety procedures. And carry out this review on a regular basis, to keep everyone on their toes.



#### **10 Elements of Competent Supervision - Be Aware of All of the Children in Your Care at All Times!**

1. Maintain ratios at all times. Keep children safe by having the correct number of staff at all times.
2. Count the children by name every 5-10 minutes using the attendance sheet. Use name to face recognition to make sure you have the correct number of staff.
3. See all of the children at all times.
4. Place yourself so that your back is not turned to the group.
5. Keep close to the children and be able to respond to them as needed.
6. Anticipate what children could do both inside and outside.
7. Be extra aware during transitions - arrivals, departures, going to or leaving the room or playground.
8. Communicate with other staff about what you can see and what you are doing.
9. Do not bunch up with other staff - spread around the inside and outside spaces.
10. Do not use your phone to make calls, text, send emails, listen to music, or for any other purpose.

#### **OCFS Regulations Review**

##### **1.5 Safety**

(a) Suitable precautions must be taken to eliminate all conditions in areas accessible to children which pose a safety or health hazard.

##### **1.8 Supervision of Children**

(a) Children cannot be left without competent supervision at any time. Competent supervision includes awareness of and responsibility for the ongoing activity of each child. It

requires that all children be within a teacher's range of vision and that the teacher be near enough to respond when redirection or intervention strategies are needed. Competent supervision must take into account the child's age emotional, physical, and cognitive development.

**The Child Care Council** can train staff on Supervision of Children and give programs assistance in setting policies and procedures that will keep children safe at all times. Contact Idie Benjamin at [idieb@cccwny.org](mailto:idieb@cccwny.org) or 914-761-3456 ext. 108.