

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 the children. For the school-age child, the caregiver must be available to provide assistance and care so that the child's health and safety is protected.

As licensed child care providers, the fact is you are held to a higher standard for which children and their parents are grateful. Except from the September 199 Licensing Line.

Here are the 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 the 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.