

Guidance on Maintaining Adequate Supervision Ratios



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In planning a trip or activity, it is critically important to consider how many adults are needed to supervise children and young people in a safe manner. It is recommended that a certain number of adults be available to supervise a certain number of children and young people; however, this is also dependent on whether the children and young people have specific needs or requirements, and on the duration of the activity.

At a minimum, two adults are required for each activity.

In addition, the minimum following ratios should be applied, depending on the number of children:

Children aged under 2 Years
one adult to three children

Children aged 2-3 Years
one adult to four children

Children aged 4-8 Years
one adult to six children

Children aged 9-12 Years
one adult to eight children

Children aged 13-18 Years
one adult to ten children

If it is an overnight activity, additional staff should be considered. If the group is mixed, a gender balance should be maintained.

Depending on the needs and abilities of the children and the nature of the activity, you may need to have more adults than the minimum recommended.

Relevant Forms

SO6, SO7, SO8, SO9, SO10 & SO11