

**Rationale:**

Periodically interpretations of rules are updated to ensure programs are engaging in healthy and safe child care practices. Recently, OCC updated their interpretation of the supervision rules. This is due to the large body of research around preventing SIDS, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

- Twenty percent of SIDS deaths occur in daycare, which is a very high number.
- SIDS is the leading cause of death for infants 1 month to 1 year of age.
- The research shows that babies are much less likely to die of SIDS when the baby is placed on his or her back to sleep in a crib with a firm mattress, with no soft objects, toys, or loose bedding.

Adequate supervision also plays a role in preventing accidents and deaths. This means a caregiver is actively checking on and listening for children who are sleeping, falling asleep, and waking. It also requires that the sleeping space is well lit so that staff can see each infant’s face and the color of his or her skin.



**Practice:**

OCC has recently determined that if a provider is on a different floor of the home then the provider is not in compliance with supervision rules. It is extremely difficult to be within sight or sound of children, near enough to respond to their needs, and be aware of what each child is doing if not on the same floor of the home. In addition, the silent activities of a child in distress (suffocation, choking) might be missed if not frequently doing audio and visual checks of children, which may be less frequent if the caregiver is on another floor of the home. Being on the same floor of the home allows for faster and safer evacuation in an emergency.

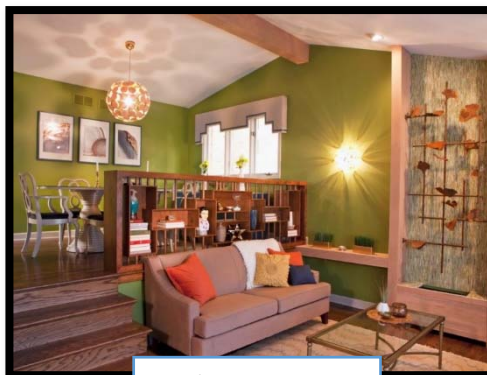
**FAQ:**

**1. Can a monitor be used to supervise sleeping children on a second floor?**

Though these monitors might feel like they provide adequate supervision, they do not replace a caregiver being within sight or sound of sleeping children. In addition, manufactures’ users manuals for infant monitors often state that their use **does not** replace adult supervision. A monitor maybe used to supplement supervision, but a caregiver must still be on the same floor of the home as sleeping children.

**2. What is considered a separate floor of the home?**

A second story, split level, or any amount of stairs or positioning of the stairwell that obstructs visibility would be considered a separate floor. A sunken living room, or a couple of steps that lead into an open room would not be considered a separate floor, as long as the provider can directly see into the space. Consult with your licensing specialist if you are unsure as to the layout of your home.



Sunken Living Room



Split Level Entry

## Applicable Rules

### **414-205-0075 Supervision of Children – Registered Family**

The provider or a substitute provider is responsible for the children in care. At all times the provider or substitute provider must:

- (1) Be within sight or sound of all children;
- (2) Be aware of what each child is doing;
- (3) Be near enough to children to respond when needed;
- (4) Be physically present when there are children under the age of 36 months playing outside; and
- (5) Be physically present when kindergarten-age or younger children are playing outside, unless the outside play area is fully fenced and hazard free.

### **414-350-0120(2) Caregiver/Child Ratios and Supervision- Certified Family**

- (2) Children shall at all times have the full attention of and be supervised by the required number of caregivers:
  - (a) Children shall be within sight and/or sound of a caregiver at all times;
  - (b) A caregiver shall be near enough to children to respond when needed. Children out of direct contact shall be monitored regularly and frequently and must be in approved activity areas;
  - (c) Children may not be on a floor level of the home unless a caregiver is on the same floor level, except as specified in OAR 414-350-0120(2)(d);