

Use of Monitors and Security Cameras

While Children Are Awake



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);

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Monitors and security cameras may be used to supplement supervision, but do not take the place of direct or auditory supervision. Manufacturers user manuals for infant monitors, for example, warn that monitors do not take the place of adult supervision. As monitors cannot alert the caregiver to silent activities of children (suffocation, choking, unconsciousness), the caregiver must do visual and audio checks of the children frequently enough to ensure that the caregiver is aware of what each child is doing and can respond when necessary. Providers must be able to respond immediately.

- Monitors and cameras shall not be used to take the place of adult supervision.
- Monitors and cameras shall not be used to aid in supervising children who are behind a closed door. Doors must remain open for unobstructed hearing and to allow the caregiver to do easy and frequent visual checks.
- Monitors and cameras shall not be used to aid in supervising children on another floor level of the home. Providers must be able to respond immediately. This is not possible when the provider is not located on the same floor level as the children.
- Monitors and cameras shall not be used to aid in supervising children who are either inside or outside of the home, while the provider is not in the same location. Providers must be able to respond immediately. This is not possible when the provider is not located in the same area of the premises.

Best Practice

Though OCC rules specify that children can be within sight or sound of a caregiver, best practice is that children are directly supervised by qualified caregivers. Being within sight and sound of children allows for the caregiver to respond to children's needs quickly and allows for a safer and faster evacuation in case of an emergency. **Note:** In addition to being within sight **or** sound, the rules further state you must be aware of what each child is doing and be near enough to children to respond when needed.

Sources:

Oregon Administrative Rules, Oregon Department of Education, Early Learning Division, Chapter 414, Divisions 205 [Registered Family Child Care Homes](#) and 350 [Certified Family Child Care Homes](#).

You are entitled to language assistance services and other accommodations at no cost. If you need help in your language or other accommodations, please contact the Office of Child Care at 503-947-1400.