



NAD Youth Ministries

Youth SUPERVISION

Information adapted from <https://www.adventistrisk.org/prevention-resources/safety-topics/child-and-youth-activities/child-protection>

Well-trained adult supervision will greatly minimize the risk of inappropriate conduct during children and youth ministries activities and events. It will also minimize the potential of false accusations being brought against an adult staff member or volunteer.

- a. Adults supervising children and teens must be constantly vigilant for signs of inappropriate behavior by other adults. When there is a breach of the code of conduct, this should be addressed immediately by the ministry's leader to protect the minor, the adult, and the ministry.
- b. It is important to remind adult staff members on how to properly interact with children. Take note if a staff member is over-friendly or establishes a special relationship with a child that includes direct contact outside the ministry.
- c. Never leave unattended a child or group of children for whom you are responsible for. Provide appropriate adult supervision at all times.
- d. Parents are responsible for supervising their children before and after church sponsored children's programs and seeing that their children are picked up at the appointed dismissal time. Every reasonable effort will be made to release children to their parent or designee.
- e. No child shall be released to another older child or permitted to go to the restroom accompanied by an older child unless the child is a sibling. Provide extra care when taking small children to the restroom. Take another adult along, or leave the door open.
- f. Minors under 18 years of age (children and teens), should not be permitted to remain on church property unless two adults are present.

Elements of Effective Supervision

1. Always have a minimum of two adults supervising children and youth at all times.
2. Have a record of the names and numbers of all children or youth participating in the ministry event and how to best contact parents or guardians in the event of an emergency.
3. Have vision panels or windows which allow easy sight into all classrooms and office areas.
4. Adults must be fully engaged in the responsibility of supervision and watchfulness at all times.
5. Do not allow distractions (e.g. phone or personal conversations, texting, computer or tablet use) during assigned supervisory responsibilities.

6. Keep track of the whereabouts of all children and youth throughout the event facilities.
7. Be especially vigilant of time spent and the number of children or youth in restroom areas.
8. Make sure areas not being used in the facility are properly locked, limiting access by unauthorized individuals.
9. Make sure all exterior areas are properly illuminated during nighttime activities.
10. Have roving adult supervision monitoring the facility and parking lot areas during the event.
11. Never be alone with a child (if possible). In the event you are the last adult left with a child, call the parent or child's guardian. If they cannot be reached, call another trusted adult to notify them of your situation, the steps you are taking to contact the parents, and ask if they could return to assist.

Best Practices in Supervision of Children and Youth webinars

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qH-E3YX97c&feature=youtu.be>

Supervision Seminar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5CWmpCHIK8&feature=youtu.be>