

At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

## Section 3. Learning what is required for meeting.

The following section will show you exactly what to do to ensure your practice is meeting. You **do not** need to complete this section if you have successfully completed 'Section 2'.

### Why is the element important?

A service reviewed what the NQF Guide said about element 2.2.1 and understood educators:

- need to supervise children at all times to ensure their safety
- always need to be alert for potential hazards that may endanger children or cause accidents and injuries
- need to take actions (reasonable precautions) to remove or minimise identified risks of harm to children.

### What could potentially go wrong if educators didn't do the above?

If educators fail to adequately supervise there are several potential risks and consequences that can arise:

**Increased likelihood of accidents and injuries:** Without proper supervision, children may engage in risky behaviours or encounter hazards that could result in accidents, injuries, or even more serious harm. Lack of supervision increases the chances of falls, collisions, ingestion of harmful substances, or engagement in unsafe activities.

**Exposure to unsafe environments:** In the absence of alertness to potential hazards, children may be exposed to unsafe environments that could pose risks to their well-being. This includes situations where hazardous materials are within reach, areas with insufficient safety measures, or inadequate supervision in high-risk areas (e.g., water play or climbing equipment).

**Delayed response to emergencies:** Without constant supervision and alertness, educators may not be able to promptly respond to emergencies or potential dangers. Delayed response times can exacerbate the severity of

incidents or hinder the ability to prevent accidents or injuries from occurring.

**Increased risk of harm or injury due to preventable hazards:** Neglecting to take reasonable precautions to remove or minimize identified risks of harm puts children at greater risk. Failure to address potential hazards in the environment, such as loose cords, sharp objects, or inadequate safety equipment, increases the likelihood of accidents or injuries that could have been prevented.

**Lack of trust and confidence:** When educators do not fulfill their duty to supervise, remain alert, and take reasonable precautions, families may lose trust and confidence in the service. This can lead to a breakdown in communication, strained relationships, and potential reputational damage for the service.

**Legal and regulatory implications:** Non-compliance with the supervision requirements and failure to take reasonable precautions may lead to legal and regulatory consequences.



You must practice

**It's important that we have a consistent implementation of reasonable precautions and adequate supervision at all times ensures that children are protected from harm and hazards.**

### Scenario: Outdoor Play Area

- **Reasonable Precaution:** Before children engage in outdoor play, educators inspect the play area to ensure it is free from potential hazards such as broken equipment, sharp objects, or tripping hazards.
- **Adequate Supervision:** Educators maintain a visible presence in the outdoor play area, actively monitoring children's activities, intervening when necessary to prevent

### Week 26, 21 to 25 August 2023 – 2.2.1 Supervision

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accidents or conflicts, and ensuring safety rules are followed, such as proper use of equipment and appropriate behaviour.

### Water Play Activity

- **Reasonable Precaution:** Educators conduct a risk assessment to identify potential hazards related to water play, such as slips and falls or water depth. They implement safety measures like non-slip mats, appropriate water depth for different age groups, and constant monitoring of children during water play.
- **Adequate Supervision:** Educators maintain a close proximity to children during water play, ensuring that each child is within arm's reach and actively supervising their interactions with water and equipment. They are vigilant in observing children's behaviour, providing guidance, and intervening to prevent accidents or unsafe practices.

### Cooking Experience

- **Reasonable Precaution:** Educators identify potential risks associated with cooking activities, such as burns or cuts, and take appropriate measures to minimize these risks. This includes ensuring the use of child-friendly cooking utensils, providing clear safety instructions, and establishing safe cooking procedures.
- **Adequate Supervision:** Educators closely supervise children during cooking experiences, ensuring they follow safety guidelines, use appropriate tools and equipment, and practice proper handwashing and hygiene. They actively engage with children, discussing safety measures, and monitoring their progress to prevent accidents and ensure a safe cooking environment.

### Indoor Free Play

- **Reasonable Precaution:** Educators regularly inspect the indoor play area to identify any potential hazards like loose cords, unstable furniture, or small objects that may pose a choking hazard. They remove or secure these hazards to create a safe play environment.

- **Adequate Supervision:** Educators maintain a visible presence during indoor free play, monitoring children's interactions, and intervening when necessary to prevent accidents or conflicts. They ensure that children are engaged in age-appropriate activities, encourage safe play behaviours, and facilitate problem-solving and conflict resolution.

After reading these points, which one(s) do you think you are doing well? Describe your practice in detail so it can go directly into your QIP or SAT (NSW only).

After reading these points, which one(s) do you think you need to work on? Describe how you could improve your practice.

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