Gmail

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Important Updates to Child Supervision Requirements

1 message

ACA Qld <hello@qld.childcarealliance.org.au> 13 March 2026 at 16:00
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ACA Queensland

SECTOR BRIEF



Changes to Child Supervision Rules

1. Why the rules were strengthened

Recent incidents in the sector highlighted that children were sometimes not adequately supervised.

As a result, governments and regulators strengthened expectations around active supervision and child safety practices across ECEC services.
The goal is to ensure:

- Children are always visible and supervised
- Staff understand their child safety responsibilities

- Services reduce the risk of harm, abuse or children going missing

2. What “active supervision” now means

Services must ensure active supervision of children at all times.

Active supervision means educators must:

- Be able to see and hear children at all times
- Position themselves strategically in the environment
- Count and monitor children regularly
- Anticipate risks before they occur
- Move around the environment rather than remaining stationary

It is not acceptable to simply be present in the room.

3. Stronger expectations for staff behaviour

Educators must now demonstrate stronger supervision practices such as:

- Avoiding distractions (phones, conversations, paperwork)
- Maintaining constant awareness of where children are
- Supervising children during transitions (bathroom, outdoor play, excursions)
- Ensuring no child is left alone or unsupervised

4. Higher expectations for service providers

Approved providers and nominated supervisors must ensure:

- Staff understand supervision responsibilities
- Supervision plans are in place for each learning environment
- Risk assessments are completed for higher-risk areas (e.g. bathrooms, outdoor areas)
- Staff are trained in child safety and safeguarding practices
- Providers are responsible for making sure staff are properly trained.

5. New national child safety training

A new mandatory national child safety training program has been introduced to strengthen supervision and safeguarding.

Key points:

- Mandatory for all staff and volunteers in NQF services
- Includes training on:
  - understanding child safety
  - identifying abuse and neglect
- Must be completed by 27 August 2026 for existing staff
- Must be completed by new staff within 14 days of employment.

6. What this means for ECEC services

ECEC services must now ensure:

1. Active supervision at all times
2. Clear supervision plans in each room
3. Staff trained in child safety
4. Stronger risk assessments
5. Regular monitoring of children’s whereabouts

Regulators will expect services to demonstrate these practices during assessment and rating visits or investigations.

7. Key message for providers

In simple terms:
Services must move from passive supervision to active, deliberate supervision where educators constantly monitor children and anticipate risks.

This is now considered a core child safety obligation under the National Quality Framework.

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