

## Child Supervision Policy

Children need supervision on playgrounds and in all areas of the agritourism operation:

- Children can be expected to use playground equipment in unintended and unanticipated ways.
- Playgrounds present challenges and hazards for children, which are enhanced when children play on equipment inappropriately.
- Most children are unfamiliar with farms and don't recognize the hazards present.

It is very important that an adequate number of adults are present to safely supervise children. Our facility recommends that the following adult/child ratios are followed\*:

Under 3 years old.....1 Adult for every \_\_\_\_ children

3-5 Years Old.....1 Adult for every \_\_\_\_ children

6-8 Years Old.....1 Adult for every \_\_\_\_ children

9-12 Years Old.....1 Adult for every \_\_\_\_ children

A. Each adult will be assigned to specific children.

1. A list of children assigned to each adult is created and provided to the adults.
2. Ensure the children assigned to an adult know who their assigned adult is, and that they are to report to them with any problems or questions.
3. Explain to children that they are to report to their assigned adult immediately when called.
4. Supervising adults must know where their assigned children are at all times.

B. Supervising adults will ensure that:

1. Children's clothing is appropriate: no strings, loose ties or hoods that can get caught on equipment, appropriate footwear, etc.
2. Children are playing only on equipment that is appropriate for their age and size.
3. They explain the rules to the children and then enforce them.
4. They stop all dangerous horseplay, such as children throwing things or jumping from heights.
5. None of the children wander away from the play area or the area they are visiting.
6. They monitor children to stop bullying, fights or other behaviors that negatively impact play and safety.

C. Expected adult behavior:

1. Supervising adults are expected to limit conversations/discussion to necessary communication. Prolonged/involved conversations distract adults from appropriately supervising children.
2. Adults are expected to refrain from texting, talking and browsing on cell phones while supervising children.
3. Supervising adults must pay close attention to all assigned children. If there is a need to focus on one child, they need to ask for help with supervising the remaining children.
4. Chaperones are asked to not bring extra children along, even their own children. Extra children disrupt the appropriate adult to child ratio and distract adults from adequately supervising the children assigned to them.

D. All visiting groups are provided with the "***Child Supervision Information Handout***" and encouraged to share it with adults who will be chaperoning the trip.

\*If your locale/state does not have adult/child ratio regulations/guidelines, guidance is available from the "Teacher-Child Ratio Chart" found at [www.safeagritourism.com/Resources](http://www.safeagritourism.com/Resources).