

GUIDANCE 6

SUPERVISION RATIOS

GUIDANCE ON MAINTAINING ADEQUATE SUPERVISION RATIOS

In planning a trip or activity, it is critically important to consider how many adults are needed to supervise children or young people in a safe manner. It is recommended that a certain number of adults be available to supervise a certain number of children or young people. This is also dependent on whether the children or young people have specific needs or requirements, and on the duration of the activity.

At a minimum, two adults are required for each activity.

In addition, the following minimum ratios should be in place.

Note: it may be necessary to review these ratios depending on whether the children or young people have specific needs or requirements and/ or the duration of the activity.

SUPERVISION RATIO TABLE

0 – 1 years	1 – 2 years	2 – 3 years
2 adults for the first 3 children plus one adult for every additional three children	2 adults for the first 5 children plus one adult for every additional five children	2 adults for the first 6 children plus one adult for every additional six children
3 – 6 years	7 – 12 years	13 – 18 years
2 adults for the first 8 children plus one adult for every additional eight children	2 adults for the first 8 children/ young people plus one adult for every additional eight children or young people	2 adults for the first 10 children or young people plus one adult for every additional ten children or young people

- If it is an overnight activity, having additional staff or volunteers should be considered.
- If the group is mixed, a gender balance should be maintained.