Basic Health and Safety Training Topic 13: SUPERVISION

Slide 2 - Supervision –What does it mean to supervise children? It is more than just being present. Supervision requires you to be able to see and hear all children.

The child to staff ratio indicates the maximum number of children permitted per child care provider. These ratios assume that providers do not have planning, bookkeeping or housekeeping duties that take them away from directly caring for children.

Slide 3 - Each child must receive attention to their individual needs making reasonable accommodations for a child with special needs in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

Adequate supervision and care at all times must be provided only by individuals who are designated by the owner/operator and meet regulation requirements to provide supervision and care; and must be appropriate to the individual age, needs, and capabilities of each child.

All children must be under close and continuous supervision whenever using potentially dangerous activity materials or equipment such as scissors or sharp tools.

Ratios for state of Maryland Child Care Centers can be seen here. Ratios for mixed age groups vary. Please visit regulations for ratios regarding mixed age groups and Family Child Care Programs:

Child Care Providers must directly supervise children by sight and hearing at all times even when children are napping. Child care providers should frequently count children with names to faces on a scheduled basis, at every transition and whenever leaving one area to go to another such as moving from inside to outside play. Staff must be able to state how many children are in care at all times. Developmentally appropriate child to staff ratios must be met during all hours of operation, including indoor and outdoor play, field trips, and safety precautions for specific areas and equipment must be adhered to. Although programs often downsize the number of staff for early arrivers and late departures of children, another adult should always be present regardless of ratios to help in the event of an emergency.

Active and positive supervision involves:

- knowing each child’s abilities
- establishing clear and simple safety rules
- being aware of and scanning potential safety hazards
- standing in strategic positions
- scanning play activities and circulating around areas where children are
- teaching the children the appropriate and safe use of each piece of equipment

Age appropriate supervision depends somewhat on the children’s ages and abilities. Every child must be actively supervised at all times. It means knowing where children are at all times. Children of different ages and abilities will need different levels of supervision. Whenever children are being cared for, providers will need to make decisions throughout the day about where they are best placed to adequately supervise each child. In a group of children of the same age there will be some children who need more supervision than others. Child care providers will be better at age appropriate supervision as they get to know the children in their care. This is one reason why observation is so important.

See, Hear, Direct, Assess...and continue to move around child care spaces.

Slide 4 - Please proceed to part 2 of topic 13.