

Safeguarding – Guidance on Supervision in Equine Activities



This guidance aims to give you some good practice guidelines about supervision of children and is for anyone who plans or delivers activities for children.

More advice is available www.bhs.org.uk/safeguardingchildren

When planning or running events at your centre/club it is important to provide an appropriate staffing or supervision ratio of adults to participants.

Benefits of this include:-

- Minimising risk to participants.
- Enhancing the participant's experience.
- Reassuring parents/carers.
- Provides some protection for those responsible in the event of concerns or incidents arising from the activity.

Due to the number of potential variables, it is not possible to recommend a 'one size fits all' guidance but there are a number of considerations that lead to good practice.

What makes an individual suitable to supervise children?

It is the responsibility of the approved centre to make sure that the individual running the activity is suitable for it. This includes:-

- Appropriate qualifications.
- Subject to a safe recruitment process, including criminal record checks for eligible roles.
- Sign up to comply with the Code of Practice.
- Understanding their responsibility to safeguard children and attend a Safeguarding Children course, if necessary.

What factors inform appropriate supervision levels?

Whatever the recommended ratio of adults to participants is, a minimum of two adults should be present. This ensures at least basic cover in the event of something impacting on the availability of one of the adults during the activity (e.g. in the event of one participant requiring the attention of an adult during the activity following an accident).

In the planning of all activities a risk assessment should be undertaken which specifically informs decision-making about appropriate supervision levels.

Key factors to assess include:-

- Ages of children.
- Additional supervision/support needs of some or all participants (for example due to disability or age).
- Competence/experience of participants for the specific activity.
- Nature of activity (for example climbing or swimming sessions may require higher levels of supervision than an aerobics class).
- Nature of the venue - whether closed (e.g. a ménage) or open (e.g. parkland or large field on a hack); private and exclusive to the group or open and accessible to the public).

Recommended minimum supervision ratios

The following table shows recommended adult to child ratios. These are based on Ofsted guidelines however remember that regardless of the overall ratio, a minimum of 2 supervisors is recommended.

Child/Young Persons age	Number of Adults	Number of Children
0 – 2	1	3
2 – 3	1	4
4 – 8	1	6
9 – 12	1	8
13 – 18	1	10

Young people as supervisors

Many sports and centres allow under 18's to coach, officiate or organise events for other children, including achieving qualifications and awards. These positive opportunities allow young people to develop confidence, skills and experience but should not mean that organisations should depend on them to take full responsibility for managing groups of children. They can be used to supplement the adult with overall responsibility for supervising the activity.

CPSU Website - <https://thecpsu.org.uk/resource-library/best-practice/guidelines-on-staffing-supervision-ratios-for-children-young-peoples-activities/>