

New policy aims to help parents, kids stay safe

By Thomas Zimmerman 31 July 2018



To help parents make an informed choice, a new supervision policy has been released.

If you've been in the military long enough, you already understand that each installation has different policies and procedures that provide guidance on key post regulations. One of the most important policies is focused on the safety of the post's youngest residents.

"While Carlisle Barracks is a small installation, it's still important that kids of all ages have the proper supervision and access to help when necessary," said Lt. Col Sally Hannan, Garrison Commander. To help parents make an informed choice, a new supervision policy has been released.

The post guidelines for the supervision of minor children is based on the child's age, and is a minimum basic standard, not the sole determining factor when determining a child's ability to remain at home safely, said Hannan in the new policy.

- **Children 3 years and younger:** Require direct supervision. Leaving them unattended at any time or place is prohibited. Parents must be able to respond to any emergency or threatening situation.

- **Children 4-6 years old:** Can play in appropriately designed safe areas, but must do so under immediate supervision for the parent can respond quickly to emergencies.
- **Children 7-9 years old:** Are encouraged to explore their environment but must do so under monitored supervision with readily available access to an adult.
- **Children 10-11 years old:** May gradually begin to exercise periods of unsupervised play within 2 hours, provided the parent/guardian believes the child is ready. During this period, children are required to have ready access to an adult. It's encouraged that parents/guardians discuss guidelines prior to the first time being alone and at regular intervals during this period.
- **Children 12 and older:** May babysit younger children. Participation in a babysitting course is highly recommended. Two are offered each August, go [here](#) for more information. Child& Youth Services maintains a list of registered babysitters who have completed the course.
- Overnight childcare or babysitting may not be provided by anyone under the age of 18.
- Children enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program require supervision in accordance with their special needs regardless of age.

Other important guidelines:

“This policy is designed to help ensure the safety of children of all ages and every member of the Carlisle Barracks community has a responsibility,” said Hannan. Questions on this policy may be directed to the Office of the Garrison Commander at (717) 245-3232.