

Count on It: Every Child, Every Time

Children move. Environments shift. Transitions happen. These six practices help you stay one step ahead—ensuring every child is safe, seen, and supported.

1 Count Children >>>>>

Make counting a habit—every time, everywhere.

- Count at every entrance and exit.
- Don't take shortcuts when counting—match each child's face to the attendance record.
- Use visual attendance boards with photos or name tags.
- Count before and after transitions, and regularly during outdoor play.

2 Supervise Actively

Be alert and responsive. Engage with the children.

- Position yourself to see and hear all children.
- Scan the environment continuously.
- Stay close to children who need extra support.
- Use portable attendance that travels with each group



3 Communicate with Team Members

Clear communication keeps children safe.

- Verify attendance verbally or in writing after each educator or child transition, and at every educator or group change.
- Ensure all educators know their roles during transitions.
- Collaborate to avoid assumptions—say what you're doing and who you're responsible for.

4 Assess the Environment

Know the space. Spot the risks.

- Conduct regular risk assessments of indoor and outdoor environments.
- Check fences, gates, exits, and equipment daily.
- Remove hazards and rearrange furniture to improve visibility of children.
- Be aware of hiding spots and blind zones.



+ Plan Transitions

Intentional transitions reduce risk.

- Prepare children and educators for changes in activity or location—give clear notices before transitions.
- Transition children in small groups.
- Ensure small groups leaving the room are reflected on the main attendance record.
- Use individualized transition plans when needed.

+ Create Support Plans

Every child is unique—plan accordingly.

- Know each child's temperament, needs, and stressors.
- Collaborate with families and team members to support individual needs.
- Adjust supervision strategies to match developmental levels.
- Develop individualized support plans when needed, and review them regularly.

