



Supervising Youth in Agriculture

Adult supervision involves careful watching of youth from a close distance. The amount and type of supervision needed depends on the age and abilities of the youth and the task being performed.

Levels of Supervision

Constant – an adult is always within sight, sound and reach of a youth

Intermittent – an adult is out of sight and sound for up to 15 minutes

Periodic – an adult observes the youth at least every 15-30 minutes



Key Points

- No task is too easy; youth must always be supervised by an adult.
- Children under 10 years need constant supervision.
- Recommended levels of supervision for youth over 10 years depends on the youth's age and ability, and the task performed.
- Youth performing a new task should be constantly supervised until competent.
- Supervision must be a conscious, purposeful task: adults must think about it and do it consistently.
- Supervision of younger children might involve constant watching. For older children/youth, it might involve pausing adult work every 15 minutes to put "eyes and ears" on working youth.
- When checking on youth, take time to assess their performance. Are they working safely?
- A quick "How's it going?" or "Do you have any questions?" every so often can go a long way towards keeping youth safe while working.
- Children and youth need more frequent rest periods than adults when working. Provide regular breaks and monitor youth for fatigue.
- Adults should monitor youth for good body mechanics and provide training as needed.
- Adults should praise youth's safe behaviors and immediately correct unsafe ones.

