DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
EUROPE REGION
UNIT 29353, BOX 200
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MEMORANDUM FOR Soldiers, Civilian Employees, and Family Members in the Army in Europe

SUBJECT: Army in Europe Child-Supervision Guidance

1. This memorandum provides child-supervision guidance and information to help parents safeguard their children (encl). This guidance is based on the child's grade in school, not the child's age.

2. Parents are ultimately responsible for the welfare and actions of their children. Failure to exercise those parental responsibilities may constitute child neglect. Parents must use good judgment and consider the physical, emotional, and psychological maturity of their child when determining the level of supervision the child requires. Parents should not give the degree of self-management and responsibility allowed in this guidance to children with an attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), behavioral problems, developmental delay, impulsivity, psychiatric problems, or other impairments.

3. Table 1 of the enclosure provides guidance on the level of adult supervision needed for children in different grades. Incidents of unsupervised children will be reported to the installation Family Advocacy Program (FAP) report point of contact (RPOC) (the military police), who will ensure that incidents are investigated. The FAP RPOC will forward cases of unsupervised children to social work services and to the garrison commander. Table 2 provides conversions from age to grade for home-schooled children. During the summer, children are considered to be in the grade they just completed.

a. Children in the fifth grade and below will have adult supervision at all times except as indicated in table 1 under the "May Be Left Outside Unattended (Including Playing)" and "May Be Left Unattended in a Car" columns.

b. Children in the sixth grade may babysit siblings over 2 years old for up to 3 hours if they have ready access to adult supervision. Children in the seventh grade and higher may babysit children for up to 6 hours if they have ready access to adult supervision. The definition of ready access constitutes a minimum requirement of availability of telephone access and the telephone number of each person designated as having an adult supervisory role. Children in the seventh grade and younger who are eligible to babysit may not pick up children from Child, Youth, and School Services (CYSS) activities.

4. Table 3 of the enclosure lists child-supervision criteria, including supervision levels, definitions, and supervision options for parents. Parents who need help identifying an option that meets their requirements should be referred to the CYSS resource and referral office.

5. The POC is Ms. Stauber, DSN 496-5629 or e-mail: brandi.g.stauber.civ@mail.mil.

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Encl

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Table 1
Army in Europe Child-Supervision Guidelines

Age or Grade of Child	May Be Left Alone at Home	May Be Left Alone Overnight	May Be Left Outside Unattended (Including Playing)	May Be Left Unattended in a Car	May Babysit Siblings	May Babysit Others (Besides Siblings)
Newborn through age 4	No	No	No	No	No	No
Kindergarten through grade 5	No (note 1).	No	Kindergarten through grade 3: Yes, if in a playground or yard with immediate access (sight or hearing distance) to adult supervision (notes 2 and 3). The immediate-access requirement may be met by a minor who is qualified to babysit in accordance with this policy. Kindergarteners may not walk to or from school or other supervised activities without direct supervision.	No (note 1).	No	No
			Grades 1 through 5: May walk to and from school and other DOD-sanctioned activities alone. Parents must consider the distance to the school, school-building opening time, hours of darkness, and the child's maturity level (notes 2, 3, and 4).			
			Grades 4 and 5: Yes, if in a playground or yard with ready access to adult supervision.	Yes, for up to 10 minutes (for example, when an adult is picking up mail or paying for gasoline) if the keys have been removed and the handbrake applied (notes 3 and 5).		
Grades 6 and 7	Yes, for up to 6 hours in a 24-hour period (but not overnight) with ready access to adult supervision (notes 2, 3, 4, and 6).	No	Yes, for up to 6 hours with ready access to adult supervision (notes 2, 3, 4, and 6).	Yes (notes 2, 3, and 5).	Grade 6: Yes, for up to 3 hours with ready access to adult supervision (notes 2, 3, 4, and 6).	Grade 6: No
					Grade 7: Yes, for up to 6 hours with ready access to adult supervision, but not overnight (notes 2, 3, 4, and 6).	Grade 7: Yes, for up to 6 hours with ready access to adult supervision, but not overnight (notes 2, 3, 4, and 6).
Grades 8, 9, and 10	Yes, but not overnight (note 3).	No	Yes (note 3).	Yes (notes 2, 3, and 5).	Yes, for up to 12 hours with ready access to adult supervision, but not overnight (notes 2, 3, 4, and 6).	Yes, for up to 12 hours with ready access to adult supervision, but not overnight (notes 2, 3, 4, and 6).
Grades 11 and 12	Yes (note 3).	Yes, for up to 48 hours, but an adult neighbor or adult friend must check on them at least every 12 hours. Minors must have telephone access to a neighbor in case of emergency and must know where at least one parent is (note 2).	Yes (note 2).	Yes (notes 2, 3, and 5).	Yes (notes 3, 4, and 6).	Yes (notes 3, 4, and 6).

NOTES:

1. Parents must make an informed choice (for example, regarding heat, level of danger,amount of time) when carrying groceries from the car to the stairwell apartment or doing laundry and leaving the child in the stairwell apartment.
2. Adult supervision is defined as "someone 18 or older who has or assumes responsibility for the child (for example, a parent, guardian, care provider, friend)."
3. Parents are responsible for assessing the individual capabilities of their children. Questions to answer may include "Can your child solve problems independently?" "Does your child think through to the consequences before choosing to behave in a certain way?" "How does your child occupy him- or herself when left with free time?"
4. Ready access is defined as "as a minimum, telephone access and telephone number of each person designated as adult supervision."
5. Children may have difficulty assessing dangerous weather conditions (for example, extreme heat or cold) and taking action to protect themselves.
6. Red Cross or CYSS babysitting training is strongly recommended.

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Table 2
Conversion From Age to Grade (for Home-Schooled Children)

Age	4¾ - 5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Grade	Kindergarten	1st	2d	3d	4th	5th	6th
Age	12	13	14	15	16	17 - 18	
Grade	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	

Table 3
Army in Europe Child-Supervision Criteria

Supervision Level	Definition	School Grade/Age Range	Supervision Options
Direct	Someone has line of sight and sound supervision and responsibility for the child (for example, parent, guardian, care provider, babysitter, friend).	Elementary school (kindergarten through grade 5); generally 5 to 10 years old.	CYSS sponsored: • Child development center (CDC) • Family childcare • School-age services (SAS) Community resources: • In-home babysitter • Nanny • Schools • Host-nation CDC and SAS programs • Other host-nation programs
Monitored	An adult is aware of the child's location and activities. An emergency contact is available at all times.	Grades 6 through 9; generally 11 to 14 years old.	CYSS sponsored: • Clubs and volunteer activities • Instructional classes • Middle-school programs • Neighborhood Activity Homes • Team sports Community resources: • Churches • Designated adult • Host-nation programs • Schools • Scouts • Youth centers
Monitored self-care	Parents have assessed their child's ability and allowed the child to monitor him- or herself. The child has an emergency contact available.		