

Children Require Extra Supervision

Children are often injured as a direct result of inadequate supervision. One example includes finger entrapment injuries, which occur when a child's fingers get trapped in a door. Little fingers, and big ones too, can easily be broken or amputated if they are caught between the edge of the door and the door jamb (the hinge area) when a door is closed on them. You can prevent a finger entrapment injury at your studio by closely supervising anyone near a door and installing finger-pinch protection devices that prevent doors from closing completely if they strike an obstacle. Also, reinforce a policy requiring staff to keep a close eye on children at all times.

Fingersafe USA, Inc. (www.fingersafe.com) and Finger Shield Safety (www.fingershieldsafety.com) offer products designed to prevent finger entrapments.

Other circumstances that require close supervision of children are bathroom and dressing room activities. Never leave a child alone with another young child or adult, unless the adult is their parent, sibling or legal guardian. This can easily result in a sexual abuse allegation. Always complete a background check on anyone involved with children. This extra precaution can save a lot of headaches later.

If you release a child at the end of class to someone other than his or her parent, make sure you call to notify the child's parent.