

Guidelines for Children in the Workplace and/or Classroom

The University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus (University) values its employees and students and recognizes the importance that families fulfill in the lives of employees and students. These guidelines address and outline the very limited circumstances under which it is permissible to bring non-student, minor children to the workplace or classroom. The guidelines are intended to foster respect for the needs of all parties impacted by the presence of non-student, minor children on the campus, in the workplace, or in the classroom. As used in these guidelines, the term “non-student, minor child” means a minor child who is not enrolled in classes at the University. In addition, the term “parent” means any employee or student who has responsibility for a non-student, minor child while in the workplace or classroom regardless of the employee’s or student’s relationship to the child.

1. In general, the workplace and the classroom are not appropriate places for non-student, minor children to be present on a reoccurring or continuing basis.
2. Exceptions to this rule include:
 - a. Minors who are enrolled as students at the University whose presence is required as part of their studies.
 - b. Officially sponsored institutional programmatic activities for non-students and minor children with appropriate adult supervision.
 - c. Workplace assignments in which one of the conditions of the employment is residency in a campus facility, e.g., live-in resident hall director.
 - d. Brief visits, e.g., an employee bringing a minor child to the workplace to introduce that child to co-workers, provided the employee supervises the child(ren) at all times during the visit.
 - e. Special occasions that are employer-sanctioned and at which attendance by children is encouraged. Special occasions should be coordinated with and approved by the employee’s supervisor after considering and satisfactorily addressing the factors set forth in paragraph 3 below. The employee’s schedule for the special occasion should take the child’s presence into consideration.

- f. Visits coordinated with and approved by the employee's supervisor after considering and satisfactorily addressing the factors set forth in paragraph 3 below. Children may be brought to the workplace by parent employees for brief visits or other exceptional times when common sense would dictate that it is more efficient for the employee to bring the child into an workplace (e.g., brief presence following or before a physician's appointment). The parent employee must supervise the child(ren) on such visits and ensure that the child(ren) is not disruptive to the parent employee or other employees in the workplace. It is not appropriate for non-student, minor children of any age to be in the workplace on a regular basis, including after school each day or during school breaks or holidays.
 - g. Visits coordinated with and approved by the student's instructor after considering and satisfactorily addressing the factors set forth in paragraph 3 below. Children may be brought into a classroom by a parent student for brief visits or other exceptional times when common sense would dictate that it is more efficient for the student to bring the child into the classroom (e.g., brief presence following or before a physician's appointment). The parent student must supervise the child(ren) on such visits and must ensure that the child(ren) is not disruptive to the parent student, the instructor, or to other students in the class. It is not appropriate for non-student, minor children of any age to be in the classroom on a repeat basis, including after school each day or during school breaks or holidays.
 - h. In the event of an emergency, and if there are no other alternatives, parent employees may have children present in the workplace for brief periods of time provided the parent obtains the immediate supervisor's prior approval. Similarly, in the event of an emergency, and if there are no other alternatives, parent students may have children present in the classroom for brief periods of time provided the parent obtains the instructor's prior approval. Such arrangements are only to be temporary in nature and may be granted only in circumstances where the employee and supervisor or the student and instructor have considered and satisfactorily addressed the factors set forth in paragraph 3 below. When authorized, the parent employee/student must supervise the child(ren) at all times and should not leave the child(ren) unattended or in the custody of another University employee or student, even for brief periods of time.
3. The exceptional circumstances under which children may be brought into a particular workplace or classroom setting based upon prior approval should be

established in a discussion between the employee and supervisor or the student and instructor, respectively, taking into account the following factors:

- a. Whether the parent is willing to accept full responsibility for the child's safety and for any damage to property or injury to persons caused by the child's presence.
 - b. Whether the child's presence in the workplace or the classroom creates a potential danger to the child or exposes the department or the University to liability. (i.e. labs, power plants, police vehicles, etc.)
 - c. Whether the child's presence in the workplace or the classroom may result in the unauthorized disclosure of confidential or sensitive information.
 - d. Whether the child's presence in the workplace or in the classroom may disrupt the work or classroom environment and/or creates an atmosphere that is not conducive to achievement of the specific goals and objectives of the workplace or classroom.
 - e. Whether the parent agrees to assume responsibility for the child at all times and to ensure that the child's presence does not substantially disrupt the parent's work or interfere with the workplace or classroom activities.
 - f. Whether the parent agrees to supervise the child at all times and agrees not to leave the child unattended or under the supervision of another employee.
 - g. Other factors as the supervisor or instructor deems appropriate.
4. The above-exceptions are not applicable to, and children are not permitted in, work or classroom areas where safety and/or confidentiality factors exist. Short-term visits may be authorized for approved guided tours or other reasons if:
- a. Permission from the appropriate authority is obtained, e.g., the director for access to the power plant and the employee's supervisor and laboratory head or principal investigator for laboratories or specialized areas.
 - b. Appropriate precautionary measures are taken and hazards have been considered or removed during the visit.

- c. Direct adult supervision of children is provided at all times the child is in the hazardous areas.
- d. Department heads may require additional safety measures prior to such visits and may require written parental consent authorizing the site visit.

Examples of such high-risk safety areas generally include, but are not limited to:

1. Power plants, shops, mechanical rooms, confined spaces, food preparation areas.
2. Any areas, indoors or out, containing power tools or machinery with exposed moving parts or rotating equipment.
3. Areas with excessive noise, temperatures, inadequate ventilation or pollutants.
4. University vehicles, heavy duty or other motorized equipment, including police vehicles, shuttles, and such.
5. Any other high-risk areas (stairwells, elevators, doorways, rooftops, construction zones, etc.).
6. Laboratories or specialized work areas that include chemicals, biological hazards, radioactive hazards, flammables, explosives, compressed gasses, sharp objects, lasers, research animals, hazardous wastes or other environmental hazards.