

# Take a Lifeguard Approach

## Observe



### *Open Attention*

Express interest as you watch but avoid interfering in their play. Trust that the child can manage the risks and challenges at hand.

## Check-in



### *Focused Attention*

If/when danger presents itself that may push the edge of acceptable risk, check-in with the child to see if they are aware of the risk. Ask if they are comfortable managing the risk.

If yes, go back to observing.

## Intervene



### *Active Protection*

If the level of risk has become unacceptable it's time for the adult to intervene. Take steps to reduce the risks.

The goal is to help the child better understand risk when they are playing and give them the confidence to manage it.