

**Extending Beyond Safety & Risk** approach extends beyond mere supervision and includes elements of emotional, social, and physical support. In essence, understanding basic care functions in child welfare means not only safeguarding a child's physical safety but also nurturing their emotional and social development while adhering to routines, maintaining good communication, and being adaptable. This comprehensive approach ensures a well-rounded, safe, and supportive environment for the child in your care.

### **Proposed Objectives**

1. **Safety and Risk Management:** Before anything else, understanding basic care functions means ensuring the child's safety and minimizing risks. This includes childproofing the environment, keeping sharp objects out of reach, and knowing how to respond to emergencies like fires, medical issues, or accidents.
2. **Physical Care:** Basic care includes meeting the child's physical needs. This involves feeding, changing diapers (if applicable), maintaining proper hygiene, and ensuring the child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Knowing how to prepare and serve age-appropriate meals and snacks is essential.
3. **Emotional Support:** Understanding how to comfort a crying child, engage in age-appropriate play, and be attentive to their emotional needs is part of this basic care.
4. **Social Interaction:** Engaging the child in activities that promote social skills, such as sharing, taking turns, and playing with others, is an integral part of childcare. Direct line staff can serve as role models for positive social behavior.
5. **Routine and Structure:** Establishing and maintaining a daily routine that includes mealtimes, nap times, and playtime helps children feel secure and well cared for. It also aids in their development.
6. **Health and Wellness:** Understanding basic health care including recognizing signs of illness, administering basic first aid, and knowing when to contact a healthcare professional.
7. **Positive Discipline:** Direct line staff should be aware of and implement appropriate discipline techniques that are consistent with the child's age and developmental stage and agency's policies and procedures. This can include setting clear boundaries and consequences, redirection, and providing positive reinforcement for good behavior.
8. **Flexibility:** Understanding that each child is unique and may have specific needs or preferences is important. Flexibility in the caregiving approach allows a direct-line staff to adapt to individual requirements and handle unexpected situations.