

Both supervision and support can be necessary for effective parent-child visits when the child is in care. The goals of each, however, are different. Supervision ensures children’s safety and well-being; whereas support increases parental confidence and competence. While they frequently overlap, they should not be confused as one and the same concept. Supported and mentored visits are fundamentally different from traditional supervised visits. (Beyer, 2008).

The simple 2 x 2 matrix shown below plots the concepts of *oversight* and *support* against each other. This representation shows four categories of visitation, any of which may be determined to best meet the needs of a family, and provides a description of each.

### Oversight vs. Support Matrix

	<u>Supervised</u>	<u>Unsupervised</u>
<b>With Support</b>	<p>Child’s safety and well-being are at risk and require supervision. Parent needs support to understand and meet child’s needs, or develop/maintain attachment and connection to the child.</p> <p><i>Ex. Children recently removed due to neglect or abuse. Goal may be reunification or adoption; support is appropriate for either.</i></p>	<p>Child’s safety and well-being are assured and visits may occur without any need for supervision. Parent needs support to refine their ability to understand and meet child’s needs, or develop/maintain attachment and connection to the child.</p> <p><i>Ex. Parent and child transitioning to child’s return home; reunification goal.</i></p>
<b>Without Support</b>	<p>Child’s safety and well-being are at risk and require supervision. Parent does not demonstrate capability to have insight into child’s needs and/or parent’s own need to change their behavior.</p> <p><i>Ex. Visitation solely for the purpose of providing the child with contact with the parent; closely supervised. Reunification is not likely or is not a goal, or parent is pursuing prerequisite treatment goals before parenting can become a priority.</i></p>	<p>Child’s safety and well-being are assured, parent is attuned to and responsive to child’s needs, parent-child bond is strong. Placement not due to lack of parenting ability or protective capacity.</p> <p><i>Ex. homelessness due to job loss; reunification goal.</i></p>