

Clean, Dry, and Comfortable

Child Care Learning Centers: 591-1-1-.17(2) - To the extent possible, personnel shall keep children clean, dry and comfortable.

Family Child Care Learning Homes: 290-2-3-.11(1)(m) - Children shall be kept clean, dry, and comfortable.

Rule Type: Non-Core Rule

Intent of the Rule

To ensure that the health, and the physical and emotional comfort of the child is protected. To prevent the spread of infection by ensuring that children are not exposed to potentially infectious germs.

Clarification

Cleanliness is particularly important for children in child care settings due to close interpersonal contact among children and between children and staff, and the inability of young children to practice proper sanitation procedures on their own. Child care program staff should be sensitive, attentive, and responsive to children's needs. This contributes to children feeling understood, valued, and safe, and promotes self-esteem and trust. For example, children should be soothed, consoled, and reassured in times of distress, dressed appropriately at all times, etc.

Indicators

- ✓ Child care program staff shall ensure that children are kept clean.
 - TIP: Consider having specific times throughout the day when children's faces are routinely checked and wiped (e.g., when returning from outdoor play, after meals and snacks, prior to departure, etc.).
 - Note: When wiping noses, single-use tissues must be used and then discarded in a waterproof or plastic-lined, covered, trash container. Use of nasal bulb syringes is permitted. Nasal bulb syringes should either be provided by the parent(s) or purchased by the child care program for individual use and labeled with the child's name. Instructions on how to use a nasal bulb syringe can be found here:
<http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/suctioning-the-nose-with-a-bulb-syringe>
 - Note: Clothing that is dirty, wet, or soiled with body waste should be changed immediately and stored in individual plastic bags.

- ✓ Child care program staff shall ensure that children are kept dry.
 - Note: Diapers must be changed when they are wet or soiled.
 - Recommendation: Diapers should be visually inspected at least every two hours and whenever the child indicates discomfort or exhibits behavior that suggests a soiled or wet diaper.
 - Organizational TIP: Consider incorporating scheduled times throughout the day when diapers will be changed for all diapered children, and add this information to the daily schedule (if applicable) posted in each classroom. Also, consider using a daily report sheet to record times of diaper checks and changes.

- ✓ Child care program staff shall ensure that children are kept comfortable.
 - Note: Child care program staff must be able to identify signs of distress in children and respond accordingly. For example, staff should sooth, console, and reassure a child who is upset or ill, and hold and calm a child who is afraid, etc. Remember that children's needs can often be determined by the signals they provide through their behavior.
 - Note: Ensure that children are dressed appropriately at all times. During cold weather, children should wear jackets, scarves, hats, and gloves, when necessary, during outdoor play. During warmer weather and/or during indoor play, children should not be overdressed. In addition, child care program staff should not allow children to be partially dressed (e.g., after soiled or wet clothing has been removed, etc.), regardless of whether or not a change of clothing has been provided by the parent(s).
 - TIP: Consider keeping additional items (e.g., jackets, pants, shirts, etc.) on hand for children who do not have adequate extra clothing.

Resources:

Caring for Our Children

<http://cfoc.nrckids.org/>

Sample daily report forms

https://www.google.com/search?q=daily+report+form+for+infants+and+toddlers&biw=1600&bih=731&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0CAYQ_AUoAWoVChMIgan009iLyQIVCPAmCh1zNgVI

AbilityPath

<http://www.abilitypath.org/>