

Potty Chairs

Child Care Learning Centers: 591-1-1-.17(10) – Potty Chairs. If used, toilet potty chairs shall after each use be emptied by disposal in a flush toilet, cleaned with a disinfectant, and stored in the bathroom. If a sink is used, the sink shall also be disinfected.

Family Child Care Learning Homes: 290-2-3-.11(1)(i) – If used, toilet potty chairs shall after each use be emptied by disposal in a flush toilet, cleaned with a disinfectant, and stored in the bathroom. If a sink is used, it shall be disinfected after each use.

Rule Type:
Non-Core Rule

Intent of the Rule

To prevent the spread of infection and protect the health and safety of children.

Clarification

Potty chairs carry distinct risks to the child care environment. Since potty chairs are one of the places where germs that cause disease are most likely to live and spread, the equipment must be handled with extreme care and attention to sanitation. Staff should follow the manufacturer’s instructions for the type of disinfectant used (i.e., bleach or commercial product).

Indicators

- ✓ Child care program staff must empty potty chairs by disposal in a flush toilet, clean them with a disinfectant, and store them in the bathroom.
 - Note: Potty chairs must be emptied, cleaned, and disinfected immediately after each use. Staff must disinfect the potty chair any time an unclothed child sits on it whether or not the child uses the potty.
 - Reminder: Potty chairs must only be used in the bathroom.
 - TIP: Use potty chairs constructed of plastic or similar nonporous synthetic products. Wooden potty chairs are not recommended, even if the surface is coated with a finish. The finished surface of wooden potty chairs is not durable and may become difficult to wash and disinfect effectively.
 - Recommendation: Store potty chairs in an area of the bathroom that is not accessible to children. Potty chairs should be accessible to children only under direct supervision.

- ✓ Child care program staff must disinfect the sink when used to clean and disinfect potty chairs.
 - TIP: After the potty chair is used, the contents of the potty chair should be emptied into the toilet before being cleaned and disinfected using the bathroom sink.
 - Note: Since fecal material can contain bacterial and viral germs, the sink must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to prevent cross contamination when staff and/or children use the sink for handwashing and other purposes.

Resources:

Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition

<http://cfoc.nrckids.org>