

Hazards Accessible

Child Care Learning Centers: 591-1-1-.25(13) Indoor Storage Areas. Potentially hazardous equipment, materials and supplies shall be stored in a locked area inaccessible to children. Examples of items to be stored include non-food related products under pressure in aerosol dispensing cans, flammable and corrosive materials, cleaning supplies, poisons, insecticides, office supplies and industrial-sized or commercial buckets with a capacity of three gallons or more or any other similar device with rigid sides which would not tip over if a toddler fell into the container head first.

Family Child Care Learning Homes: 290-2-3-.11(2)(f) Poisons, medicines, cleaning agents, razors, aerosol cans and other potential hazardous materials shall be stored out of reach of children or in locked cabinets.

Rule Type: Core Rule

Intent of the Rule

To protect children's health and safety.

Clarification

There are over two million human poison exposures reported to poison centers every year. Children under six years of age account for over half of those potential poisonings. The substances most commonly involved in poison exposures of children are cosmetics, personal care products, and cleaning substances. Children should not have contact with items or substances that are potentially dangerous or hazardous.

Corrosive agents, bleaches, insecticides, detergents, polishes, products under pressure in aerosol cans, and any substance that may be toxic if ingested, inhaled, or handled should be kept in locked storage, or in an area that is clearly inaccessible to children. Potentially hazardous equipment such as crockpots, bottle warmers, diffusers, coffee pots, glue guns, vacuum cleaners, brooms, and toilet plungers/brushes etc. should also be kept inaccessible to children. Tools, knives, and similar items are hazards if accessible to children. Check areas that are used by children such as passageways, porches, garages, restrooms, etc. Other potentially hazardous materials include alcohol-based hand sanitizer, shaving cream, toothpaste and mouthwash.

Staff's supplies must be kept out of reach of the children. (Examples: staff's purses, white correction fluid, adult scissors, staplers, bulletin board pins, etc.) Refer to the label of any accessible item to determine if the product is hazardous to children. Items with labels that state the product must be kept out of children's reach must be stored so they are inaccessible (see label example below).



KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

Indicators

- ✓ Child care program staff should ensure that hazardous materials and supplies are stored inaccessible to children.
 - TIP: Check all child care areas at the beginning of each day to ensure hazardous items are not accessible to children.

- Note: Check closets, drawers, and cabinets that are within reach and accessible to the children in care. Ensure hazardous items are stored in areas that are locked/latched or out of children's reach. Check product labels to ensure all items that are labeled "Keep Out of Reach of Children" are inaccessible.
- Organizational TIP: Provide secure, designated spaces for staff to store potentially dangerous items (e.g., cleaning products, office supplies, handbags, personal items, etc.) to ensure children do not have access to the items.
- Reminder: As children arrive for care, check their bags if the bags are stored where children have access to them (this also applies to school-age children). If a hazardous item is observed in a child's bag, it should be removed immediately and addressed with the child's parent as a reminder of the program's hazard policy.

Resources:

Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition <http://cfoc.nrckids.org>