

Crib Requirements

Child Care Learning Centers: 591-1-1-.30(1)/ Family Child Care Learning Homes: 290-2-3-.19(1) – Sleeping and Resting Equipment.

- (a) Cribs. A crib that is safety approved in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) safety standards shall be provided for each infant. (“Infant” refers to any child under the age of twelve (12) months or any child who is under eighteen (18) months of age who is not walking.)
1. Crib Construction. Cribs shall be in good repair and free of hazards. Stack cribs and cribs with drop sides shall not be used.
 2. Crib Mattress. A mattress shall be provided for each crib and shall be firm, tight-fitting without gaps, at least two inches (2”) thick and covered with waterproof, washable material. Before a change of occupant, each mattress shall be cleaned with a disinfectant.
 3. Crib Sheet. Each crib shall have only an individual, tight-fitting sheet which is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

Rule Type: Core Rule

Intent of the Rule

To prevent injury, minimize the spread of infection, and allow mobility of infants.

Clarification

Child care program staff should check each crib before its purchase and use to ensure it is in compliance with the current U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) safety standards. Standards have been developed to define crib safety and staff should make sure that cribs used in the facility meet these standards to protect children and prevent injuries or death. Significant changes to the ATSM and CPSC standards for cribs were published in December 2010. As of June 28, 2011, all cribs manufactured, sold, or leased must meet the new stringent requirements. Effective December 28, 2012 all cribs used in early care and education facilities must meet these standards. When it is determined that a crib is no longer safe for use in the facility, it should be dismantled and disposed of appropriately.

More infants die every year in incidents involving cribs than with any other nursery product. Child care program staff should inspect each crib before each use to ensure that hardware is tightened and that there are not any safety hazards. If a screw or bolt cannot be tightened securely, or there are missing or broken screws, bolts, or mattress support hangers, the crib should not be used.

Cribs with drop sides must not be used. Many deaths have been associated with drop-side cribs when the moveable side partly detached, trapping the infant between the mattress and wood slats of the crib. Stacked cribs prevent infants from sitting and/or standing up, hindering an infant’s ability to exercise muscles and observe surroundings. Stacked cribs can also create a health hazard when fluids drip from the upper to lower cribs.

Crib mattresses should be firm, sufficiently padded for comfort, fit snugly, and be made specifically for the size crib in which they are placed. There should be no gaps between the crib mattress and the sides of the crib. Crib mattresses should be covered with a waterproof, easy-to-wipe surface, with absolutely no cracks. From time to time, children drool, spit up, or spread other body fluids on their sleeping surfaces. Using cleanable, waterproof, nonabsorbent rest equipment enables the staff to wash and sanitize the sleeping surfaces.

Clean linens should be provided for each child. Crib sheets must be changed daily or more often if contaminated. Crib sheets should be tight-fitting and in good repair with no rips or tears.

Indicators

- ✓ Child care programs must provide for each infant a crib that meet CPSC and ATSM safety standards.
 - Note: Each crib should be identified by brand, type, and/or product number and relevant product information should be kept on file (with the same identification information) as long as the crib is used or stored in the facility.
 - Reminder: Recalled or “second-hand” cribs must not be used or stored in the facility.
 - TIP: For the most current information about these new standards go to:
<http://www.cpsc.gov/info/cribs/index.html>.
- ✓ Child care programs must maintain cribs to ensure they are in good repair and free from hazards.
 - TIP: Create a system for daily inspection of cribs for hazards, broken parts, missing or loose hardware, etc.
 - Reminder: Cribs that are damaged or hazardous must not be used and should be removed from the program’s premises.
- ✓ Child care programs must provide crib mattresses that are firm, tight-fitting, at least two inches thick, and covered with a waterproof, washable material.
 - TIP: If pressure is applied to the crib mattress and the indentation remains, the mattress is not firm enough.
 - Reminder: Plastic bags may not be used to cover rest and sleep surfaces/equipment because they contribute to suffocation if the material clings to the child’s face.
- ✓ Child care programs must provide for each crib an individual crib sheet that is tight-fitting and changed daily or more often as needed or prior to the change of an occupant.
 - Note: No child should sleep on a bare, uncovered surface.
 - Reminder: Sheets for an adult bed should not be used on a crib mattress because they could become loose and entangle an infant causing suffocation.

Resources:

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