

Indoor Equipment and Furniture

Child Care Learning Centers: 591-1-1-.12(2) - Equipment and Furniture. Equipment and furniture shall be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint and shall be kept clean.

Family Child Care Learning Homes: 290-2-3-.12(5) - All indoor and outdoor* furniture, activity materials, and equipment shall be free from hazardous conditions such as, but not limited to, sharp rough edges or toxic paint and kept clean. (*This tip focuses on indoor equipment.)

Rule Type: Non-Core Rule

Intent of the Rule

To protect the health and safety of children by taking precautions to minimize the risk of injury and infection.

Clarification

Equipment and furniture that is not sturdy, safe, or in good repair, may cause falls entrap a child's head or limbs, or contribute to other injuries. Disrepair may also expose objects that are hazardous to children, such as nails.

Messy play is developmentally appropriate in all age groups and especially among very young children, the same group that is most susceptible to infectious disease due to their lack of sufficient hygiene practices. These factors lead to soiling and contamination of equipment, furnishings, toys, and play materials. To avoid transmission of disease within the group, materials must be kept clean and sanitized.

Indicators

- ✓ Child care program staff must ensure equipment and furniture are free from hazardous conditions and in good repair.
 - Note: Indoor equipment hazards include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Exposed nails, screws, bolts, pipes
 - Splintered, deteriorated wood
 - Areas of entrapment
 - Unprotected protrusions
 - Broken/missing steps, rails, handles, sides
 - Sharp edges
 - Broken seats, parts, equipment
 - Chipped/peeling paint
 - Cracked plastic
 - Frayed material, edges, rugs
 - Tripping hazards
 - Exposed batteries
 - TIP: Establish and implement a routine for checking toys, equipment, and furniture to ensure these items are in good repair and not hazardous to children.

- Reminder: Ensure all toys and equipment that require batteries have proper coverings. Small batteries can pose choking hazards to children if the batteries were to fall out of toys. Button batteries also pose a potential burn risk if swallowed due to a chemical reaction caused when saliva triggers an electrical current.
- ✓ Child care program staff must check the condition of toys, equipment, and furniture in each classroom to ensure the items are clean.
 - Note: A bleach and water solution used as a disinfectant must be prepared daily because of rapid deterioration, and unused portions should be safely discarded at the end of the day. The disinfectant should be stored in a labeled, sealed container out of the reach of children and away from food and drink.
 - Reminder: If a commercial disinfectant is used, the manufacturer's label should indicate that the product kills bacteria, viruses, and parasites, and it should be used according to the instructions on the label.
 - TIP: Toys should be cleaned with soap and water, then rinsed with a sanitizing solution. Some toys may be safe to be placed through the dishwasher cycle. A dirty film can develop on the surface of the toys if the toys are only sprayed with disinfectant without first being cleaned with soap and water.