

Securing Equipment

Child Care Learning Centers: 591-1-1-.12(4) – Equipment and furniture shall be secured if it is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. Potentially unstable equipment and furniture that might injure a child if not secured include, but are not limited to, televisions, chests of drawers, bookcases, shelving, cabinets and fish tanks. Examples of items not required to be secured include, but are not limited to, child-sized tables and chairs, rocking chairs, and cribs.

Family Child Care Learning Homes: 290-2-3-.12(7) – All indoor and outdoor furniture and equipment shall be secured if equipment and furniture is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over. Potentially unstable equipment and furniture that might injure a child if not secured include, but are not limited to, televisions, chests of drawers, bookcases, shelving, cabinets and fish tanks. Examples of items not required to be secured include, but are not limited to, child-sized tables and chairs, rocking chairs, and cribs.

Rule Type: **Core Rule**

Intent of the Rule

To protect children from injury.

Clarification

Injuries occur when children climb onto, fall against, or pull themselves up on television stands, shelves, bookcases, dressers, desks, chests, and appliances. In some cases, heavy objects (e.g., televisions, aquariums, heavy toys, containers full of toys, etc.) placed on top of furniture tip over and cause a child to suffer traumatic and sometimes fatal injuries. Securing and organizing potentially dangerous equipment and furniture are critical steps in ensuring children are safe in a child care program.

Indicators

- ✓ The child care program must secure all equipment and furniture that is of a weight or mass that could cause injury from tipping, falling, or being pulled or pushed over.
 - Note: The following items can be used to secure equipment:
 - Furniture anchor straps
 - L-brackets
 - Anti-tip kits
 - Drywall anchors
 - Recommendation: Child care program staff should check on a regular basis to ensure that equipment and furniture have not been recalled. A list of recalls can be accessed at: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/CPSC-Recalls-Application-Program-Interface-API-Information>.
 - TIP: Additional information about securing equipment and furniture, and tip-over prevention can be found at the following link on the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's website: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Tipover-Information-Center>.

- ✓ Child care programs are not required to secure child-sized furniture (e.g., tables, chairs, cribs, etc.), rocking chairs, desks, sofas, coffee tables, etc.
 - TIP: When determining if a piece of equipment/furniture needs to be anchored, check for stability by pulling and pushing on the item.
 - Reminder: Refer to manufacturer's guidelines to determine anchoring recommendations/requirements.

Resources:

Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition

<http://cfoc.nrckids.org>