

First Aid Kits

Child Care Learning Centers: 591-1-1-.14(3) - Supplies. Each building of the Center and any vehicle used by the Center for transportation of children shall have a first aid kit which shall at least contain: scissors; tweezers; gauze pads; adhesive tape; thermometer; band-aids, assorted sizes; antibacterial ointment; insect-sting preparation; an antiseptic cleansing solution; triangular bandages; rubber gloves; protective eye wear; a protective face mask; and cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored so that it is not accessible to children but is easily accessible to Staff.

Family Child Care Learning Homes: 290-2-3-.11(1)(f) - The Home and any vehicle used by the Home for transportation of Children shall have a first aid kit which shall at least contain: scissors, tweezers, gauze pads, thermometer, adhesive tape, band-aids, insect-sting preparation, antiseptic cleaning solution, antibacterial ointment, bandages, disposable rubber gloves, protective eyewear, facemask, and cold pack. The first aid kit, together with a first aid instruction manual which must be kept with the kit at all times, shall be stored in a central location so that it is not accessible to Children but is easily accessible to the Provider and staff. The Home must also maintain written directions for the use of universal precautions for handling blood and bodily fluids. The directions on the use of universal precautions must be kept with the first aid kit at all times.

Rule Type: Non-Core Rule

Intent of the Rule

To ensure that child care program staff have basic first aid supplies to treat children in case of illness, injury, or adverse reaction to medication. To ensure that staff have immediate access to first aid supplies and emergency treatment procedures at any location where children are present. To protect children's safety by prohibiting their access to first aid kits since kits contain items or substances that could be dangerous.

Clarification

Minor accidents and unintentional childhood injuries may occur in child care settings. Even with careful supervision, children can sustain scrapes, bruises, cuts, bites, and falls in the normal course of their day. Child care program staff should have basic knowledge of first aid principles and should know how to use first aid supplies. A fully stocked first aid kit should be stored in a location known and accessible to all staff at all times, and the kit should contain enough supplies to meet the needs of the enrolled children. Because some of the items included in the first aid kit could be harmful, the kit should always be located out of children's reach. To help staff remember certain procedures in emergency situations, a first aid manual must be kept with the kit at all times.

Indicators

- ✓ Family Child Care Learning Homes shall maintain a complete first aid kit in the home. Child Care Learning Centers shall maintain a complete first aid kit in each building. Both types of child care programs shall maintain a complete first aid kit in any vehicle used to transport children.
 - Recommendation: Conduct an inventory of first aid supplies once a month. Maintain a log with each kit that lists the date that the inventory was conducted, that verifies that expiration dates of supplies were checked, that confirms that batteries in thermometers were checked, and that includes the name/signature of the staff member who conducted the inventory.

- TIP: Replenish first aid supplies immediately after use to ensure that a complete first aid kit is available at all times. A first aid kit checklist can be found on the Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning website. (See resources below.)
 - Note: It is acceptable for the child care program to use a large square piece of fabric with a safety pin for a triangular bandage and a plastic bag of ice for a cold pack. Remember that a cold pack or ice can injure skin if placed directly on the child's skin. Always wrap the cold pack in a cloth, or place a cloth or thick gauze over the child's skin before applying the cold pack. Do not place the cold pack or the ice directly on the surface of the skin.
 - Reminder: Some first aid supplies have an expiration date (e.g., antibacterial ointment, insect sting preparation, etc.). These items should be discarded and replaced upon expiration. In addition, thermometers should be checked to ensure that batteries are working.
- ✓ A first aid instruction manual shall be kept with the first aid kit. Family Child Care Learning Homes shall also maintain written directions for using universal precautions for handling blood and bodily fluids with the first aid kit.
- Note: Universal precautions are an approach to infection control to treat all human blood and certain human body fluids as if they were known to be infectious. Information for universal precautions for handling blood and bodily fluids can be found here:
http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m28240107_Preventing_the_Spread_of_Bloodborne_Pathogens_Fact_and_Skill_Sheets.pdf
 - TIP: A first aid kit manual/guide can be found on the Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning website. (See resources below.)
 - Recommendation: Although having written universal precautions for handling blood and bodily fluids instructions is not a requirement for Child Care Learning Centers, it is best practice for Child Care Learning Centers to follow the same guidelines for handling blood and bodily fluids.
- ✓ Child care programs shall ensure that first aid kits are stored out of children's reach in a location easily accessible to child care program staff.
- TIP: In addition to the required first aid kit, consider keeping the most commonly used supplies (e.g., band-aids, thermometer, antiseptic solution, etc.) in each area used for child care so they are readily available to staff.
 - Reminder: Vehicle first aid kits should also be stored out of children's reach (e.g., in the trunk, in a locked compartment, etc.).

Resources:

Earlychildhood NEWS

<http://www.earlychildhoodnews.com>

Caring for Our Children

<http://cfoc.nrckids.org/StandardView/5.6.0.1>

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning First Aid Kit Checklist

http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/documents/attachments/FirstAidChecklist_Center.pdf

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning First Aid Kit Manual - Guide

<http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/documents/attachments/FirstAidGuide.pdf>