

INFANT SAFETY POLICY

Reason this policy is important:

Due to their particular developmental abilities infant care requires additional safety concerns. Their vulnerability puts them at increased risk of injury. _____ (child care program) wants to provide all children a safe environment for them to explore and test their abilities.

Procedure and Practices, including responsible person(s):

- _____ (staff title/name) will be responsible for conducting an Daily Health and Safety Checklist and for arranging for or correcting needed safety issues before children arrive.
- Infant toys that are mouthed will be put in a tub to keep from use by other children until they can be cleaned and sanitized. Machine washable cloth toys will be used by only one child until the toys are laundered.
- Infant rattles meet the CPSC guidelines.
- Wheeled walkers will not be used.
- Safety belts on baby carriers, infant seats, swings, strollers, and high chairs are always used to prevent babies from falling out.
- Nothing is ever tied around an infant's neck (i.e. pacifiers, necklaces...).
- Bibs are removed when child is napping.
- Caregivers will insure that pacifiers are not shared and that they are cleaned and sanitized if dropped.
- Carriages/strollers, gates/enclosures, and play yards will meet the ASTM standards and will be so labeled on the equipment.
- Each infant will have a designated crib and be put to sleep according to the Safe Sleep Policy.
- A diaper-changing surface will be used for all diaper changes according to the Diapering Policy.
- Caregivers will be non-smokers or will wear a removable outer garment while smoking off-site that will be removed prior to contact with an infant.
- An evacuation crib(s) will be available for emergency evacuations and drills.

When the policy applies:

This policy is effective during all hours of child care while infants are present.

Communication plan for staff and parents:

- _____ will cover policies, plans, and procedures with all new staff (paid and volunteer) during orientation training. They will sign that they have read, understand and agree to abide by the content of the policies.
- During enrollment this policy will be reviewed by _____ with the parents. Parents will sign that they have read, understand, and agree to abide by the content of the policies.
- A copy of all policies will be available during all hours of operation to staff and parents in the policy handbook located _____.
- Parents may receive a copy of the policy at anytime upon request. A summary of this policy will be included in the parent handbook.
- Parents and staff will receive written notification of any updates.

References:

- Consumer Product Safety Commission: www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/playpubs.html
- *Caring for Our Children* – <http://nrc.uchsc.edu>
- *Model Child Care Health Policies* – <http://www.ecels-healthychildcarepa.org>

Reviewed by: _____ Director/Owner

_____ Health Professional (physician, nurse, health department, EMS, Health consultant)

_____ Staff member

_____ Other (parent, advisory committee)

Effective Date and Review Date:

This policy is effective ____/____/____ and will be reviewed annually by ____/____/____ or sooner if needed. Parents and staff will be notified of any upcoming policy review.