

BUILDING AND PHYSICAL PREMISES SAFETY

In center-based programs, caregivers and teachers should directly supervise children by sight and sound at all times.

Supervision has 4 key components: 1. Being physically present in the room. 2. Being able to see and hear your children at all times. 3. Knowing where your children are. 4. Knowing what your children are doing and being able to control and stop behavior.

In family child care settings, caregivers should directly supervise children by sight or sound even when children are sleeping.

Developmentally appropriate child-to-staff ratios should be met during all hours of operation, and safety precautions for specific areas and equipment should be followed. Children under the age of 6 should never be inside or outside by themselves.

Existing and/or newly constructed, renovated, remodeled, or altered buildings should be inspected by a building inspector to ensure compliance with applicable state and local building and fire codes before the building can be used for the purpose of early care and education. This is a state law in most states.

Guardrails or protective barriers, such as baby gates, should be provided at open sides of stairs, ramps, and other walking surfaces (e.g., landings, balconies, porches) from which there is more than a 30 inch vertical distance to fall.

All accessible electrical outlets should be “tamper-resistant electrical outlets” that contain internal shutter mechanisms to prevent children from sticking objects into receptacles. In settings that do not have “tamper-resistant electrical outlets,” outlets should have “safety covers” that are attached to the electrical outlet by a screw or other means to prevent easy removal by a child. “Safety plugs” may also be used if they cannot be easily removed from outlets by children and do not pose a choking risk.

No electrical device or apparatus accessible to children should be located so it could be plugged into an electrical outlet while a person is in contact with a water source, such as a sink, tub, shower area, water table, or swimming pool.

Equipment, materials, furnishings, and play areas should be sturdy, safe, in good repair, and meet the recommendations of the CPSC. Programs should attend to, including, but not limited to, the following safety hazards:

- a) Openings that could entrap a child's head or limbs;
- b) Elevated surfaces that are inadequately guarded;
- c) Lack of specified surfacing and fall zones under and around climbable equipment;
- d) Mismatched size and design of equipment for the intended users;
- e) Insufficient spacing between equipment;
- f) Tripping hazards;
- g) Components that can pinch, shear, or crush body tissues;
- h) Equipment that is known to be of a hazardous type;
- i) Sharp points or corners;
- j) Splinters;
- k) Protruding nails, bolts, or other parts that could entangle clothing or snag skin;
- l) Loose, rusty parts;
- m) Hazardous small parts that may become detached during normal use or reasonably foreseeable abuse of the equipment and that present a choking, aspiration, or ingestion hazard to a child;
- n) Strangulation hazards (e.g., straps, strings, etc.);
- o) Flaking paint;
- p) Paint that contains lead or other hazardous materials; and
- q) Tip-over hazards, such as chests, bookshelves, and televisions.

Plastic bags that are large enough to pose a suffocation risk as well as matches, candles, and lighters or adult scissors should not be accessible to children.

The facility should provide at all times at least one working non-pay telephone or wireless communication device for general and emergency use on the premises of the child care program, in each vehicle used when transporting children, and on field trips. While transporting children, drivers should not operate a motor vehicle while using a mobile telephone or wireless communications device when the vehicle is in motion or traffic



In TEXAS:

(a) The child-care center director or designee must inspect the active play space and equipment daily before children begin play to ensure there are no hazards present. (b) The child-care center director or designee must conduct at least monthly inspections of the active play space and equipment, utilizing a general maintenance checklist or safety checklist that includes checking the equipment and surfacing material for normal wear and tear, broken or missing parts, debris or foreign objects, drainage problems, or other hazards. (c) The child-care center director or designee must ensure hazards or defects identified during inspections are removed or repaired promptly, and must arrange for protection of the children or prohibit use of hazardous equipment until the hazards can be removed or repairs can be made. (d) You must keep maintenance inspections and repair records at the child-care center for review during the center's hours of operation for at least the previous three months.

You must use a Licensing Incident/Illness Report form, or other form containing at least the same information, to record information regarding:

(1) Injuries that required medical attention by a health-care professional; and

(2) Any other situation that placed a child at risk, such as forgetting a child in a center vehicle or not preventing a child from wandering away from the child-care center unsupervised.

The director of the child-care center or the person in charge must sign and date the completed report.

You must share a copy of the report with the child's parent and obtain the parent's signature on the report indicating the parent has reviewed it or received it.

You must keep the Incident/Illness Report form with the child's record at the child-care center while the child is in care, and for at least three months after the child's last day in care.

All areas accessible to a child must be free from hazards including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Electrical outlets accessible to a child younger than five years must have child-proof covers or safety outlets;
- (2) 220-volt electrical connections within any child's reach must be covered with a screen or guard;
- (3) Air conditioners, electric fans, and heaters must be mounted out of all children's reach or have safeguards that keep any child from being injured;
- (4) Glass in sliding doors must be clearly marked with decals or other materials placed at children's eye level;
- (5) Play materials and equipment must be safe and free from sharp or rough edges and toxic paints;
- (6) Poisonous or potentially harmful plants must be inaccessible to children;
- (7) All storage chests, boxes, trunks, or similar items with hinged lids must be equipped with a lid support designed to hold the lid open in any position, be equipped with ventilation holes, and must not have a latch that might close and trap a child inside; and
- (8) All bodies of water, such as, pools, hot tubs, ponds, creeks, birdbaths, fountains, buckets, and rain barrels, must be inaccessible to children.

For in home providers - Firearms, hunting knives, bows and arrows, or other weapons kept on the premises of a child-care home must remain in a locked cabinet inaccessible to children during all hours of operation.

You must keep ammunition in a separate locked cabinet and inaccessible to children during all hours of operation.

Toys that explode or that shoot things, such as caps, BB guns, darts, or fireworks, are prohibited for children's use and must remain in a locked cabinet, inaccessible to children during all hours of operation.

To take the quiz for this training go here:

http://www.proprofs.com/quiz-school/story.php?title=building-and-physical-premises-safety_2BZ

If the link no longer works, please email: ticktocktraining@yahoo.com