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Did you know.....

- The proper method to sanitize the table or highchair tray before eating meals/snacks is to wash with soap and water, spray with bleach water, wait 30 seconds and then wipe excess bleach water with paper towel or another one-time use towel.
- The correct diaper-changing process is:
Staff should prepare for a diaper change before bringing the child to the diapering area by having ready:
 - Changing table paper (if used) to cover the table for the child's shoulders to the child's heels (in case it becomes soiled and must be folded over to give a clean surface during the change)
 - Enough wipes for the diaper change (including wiping child's bottom and adult's hands after taking the soiled diaper away from the child's skin)
 - A clean diaper and plastic bag for soiled clothes and clean clothes if soiled clothing is anticipated
 - Non-porous gloves (if used)
 - A dab of diaper cream on a disposable piece of paper or tissue (if used)

Supplies should be removed from their containers before starting the diaper change. Once supplies are readied, the child is brought to the changing table. After the soiled diaper is removed and placed in a hands-free covered trash can (usually one that has a step pedal that lifts the lid) and any soiled clothes are removed and placed in a tied or sealed bag, the child's and caregiver's hands are then wiped with a disposable diaper wipe. Once the clean diaper is put on and clothes refastened (or changed if necessary), the child's hands are thoroughly washed with liquid soap and warm running water for at least 10 seconds (time to sing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"). Any toys or other objects that are handled during a diaper change must be put aside to be sanitized. The diaper surface should then be sanitized by spraying with a bleach and water solution (¼ cup of bleach to 1 gallon of water) and allowing the surface to air dry for to 2 minutes. While the changing surface is drying the adult should thoroughly wash hands with liquid soap and warm running water for at least 10 seconds. The diaper surface can then be wiped or, preferably, left to air-dry until the next change.

- The term “Accessible” means that children can reach and use materials by themselves for at least one hour daily. There can not be any barriers, either physical or verbal. Remember that children being able to reach and use materials mean different things with different age groups. For example, a non-mobile infant will have to have items brought to them to be termed “accessible” while schoolagers could be observed accessing materials from a closed space.

- Safety issues are determined by what could cause a hospital visit or the use of a first aid kit. Some common issues with safety are:
 - *walkers
 - *medicine not locked up
 - *bleach water and toothpaste within the reach of young children
 - *insufficient impact material underneath structures used for climbing
 - *air conditioner unit not protected from children
 - *play yard not fenced in
 - *supervision provided near children (inside and outside)
- The term “same sink” is defined as the following: If the same sink is used by either children or adults for both diapering/toileting and food-related routines (including toothbrushing) or other purposes (to wash toys/other classroom equipment; after wiping nose), it must be sanitized by spraying sink and faucets with a bleach solution after diapering/toileting use. If the facility permits sinks to be designated for specific purposes, then this should be done (for example, sinks near toilets should be used for toileting handwashing only, while sinks in classroom are used for food-related and other purposes. The intent is to cut down on fecal-oral contamination (intestinal germs transferred on the hands).

As an exception to this rule, in order to avoid requiring children to wash hands in quick succession between toileting and being fed, the following applies: If children use toilet, wash hands and then immediately sit down for meal/snack, contamination of children's hands at toileting sink must be minimized by having children/adults turn off faucet with paper towel.

- With supervision, the provider is allowed limited momentary lapses in supervision (2-4 minutes), and when children are out of sight, they must be within hearing range. In addition, children must be in a safe place, involved in low-risk activities (eating is a higher risk activity) while not within view, and checked frequently. Children under age 6 generally can not be left outdoors unsupervised, and older children must be checked regularly.
- The Family Day Care Rating Scale (FDCRS) is in the process of being revised. The authors are projecting the revised scale to come out in Fall 2006.
- The above information was cited from The Family Day Care Rating Scale book, www.fpg.unc.edu/~ecers/, and training with Frank Porter Graham – The University of North Carolina. For further information and resources go to www.fpg.unc.edu/~ecers/, www.cecpd.org, or call CECPD at 1-800-446-7608 X226 or 405-793-3408.

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