

Environment Rating Scale Resource Information Sheet

Topic: Diapering Procedure

Scale and Item Number: _____

Common Issues:	Suggested Solutions:
Sanitary conditions during diapering are rarely maintained.	★ The purpose of maintaining sanitary conditions is to prevent the spread of germs in the urine or stool to staff's or child's hand, the diapering surface, containers of supplies, cabinet doors, or any other surface the children and staff might touch.

Proper Diapering Procedure

I. Preparing for Diapering

To minimize contamination outside of the diapering area, prepare for a diaper change before bringing the child to the diapering area, for example, by having ready:

- ★ Changing table paper (if used) to cover the table from the child's shoulders to 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 the bottom and hands after taking the soiled diaper away from the child's skin).
- ★ A clean diaper, plastic bag for soiled clothes, and clean clothes if soiled clothing is anticipated.
- ★ Non-porous gloves if they will be used, and a dab of diaper cream on a disposable piece of paper or tissue if cream is being used.
- ★ Supplies should have been removed from their containers and placed near, but not directly on the diapering surface before starting the diaper change.

II. Diapering Procedure

1. Prepare for diapering as indicated above.
2. Place child on diapering table. Remove clothing to access diaper. If soiled, place clothes into plastic bag.
3. Remove soiled diaper and place into lined, hands-free trash container. (To limit odor, seal in a plastic bag before placing into trash container.)
4. Use wipes to clean child's bottom from front to back.
5. Use a wipe to remove soil from adult's hands.
6. Use another wipe to remove soil from child's hands.
7. Throw soiled wipes into lined, hand-free trash container.
8. Put on clean diaper and redress child.
9. Place child at sink and wash hands following the proper handwashing procedures.
10. Spray diapering surface with bleach-water solution and wait more than 10 seconds before wiping with disposable towel or allow to air dry. It should be noted that the recommended practice is to wait for 2 minutes to allow the solution to kill germs. However, if there is a delay of at least 10 seconds before the solution is wiped from the surface. The surface cannot be sprayed and immediately wiped.
11. Adult washes hands using proper handwashing procedures, without contaminating any other surfaces.

Additional Precautions

- ★ The diapering surface must be sanitized after each diaper change with a bleach-water or other approved sanitizing solution (all surfaces must be able to be sanitized—e.g., no quilted pads or safety straps, no containers that are stored on the diapering surface). The bleach-water solution must be allowed to stay on the surface for more than 10 seconds, and ideally 2 minutes, to kill the germs. So it is best for staff to spray the surface as the last step of the diapering procedure before washing their own hands. After the time lapse the surface can be dried (no additional handwashing required at this time) or allowed to air dry (and wiped dry if still damp) before use with another child.
- ★ Physical separation of diapering area from food preparation area, including separate sinks for each area. If the same sink must be used for more than diapering/toileting, faucet handles and sink should be sanitized with bleach and water solution after diapering/toileting use.
- ★ Diapers are disposed of in a hands-free covered can (usually one that has a step pedal that lifts the lid) to prevent further contamination of surfaces.
- ★ Toys that are played with or objects that are touched, while children's diapers are changed must be put aside to be sanitized.
- ★ Note: Both child's and staff's hands must be washed after the diapering procedure is completed.

“Studies have shown that infections can be reduced by half when proper sanitary procedures are used in early childhood programs. Such procedures help prevent the spread of disease within a program and limit the spread outside the program as well. So it is important for every child and staff member that sanitary procedures be carried out consistently and correctly to protect the health of the staff, the children, their families, and greater community.”



*This information is adapted from the Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised Edition (Harms, Clifford, & Cryer, 2003) and All About the ITERS-R (Cryer, Harms, & Riley, 2004).



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