

Early Childhood Safety at Daycares

Questionnaire to Use with a Daycare Center for your children.

- A. First call a daycare center and **ask for their license number** before making an appointment.

B. When enrolling a child make sure all your contact information is valid and up to date.

1. What SECTION of the requirements is designed to protect the children from potentially harmful STAFF being employed in the center?

Personnel File

2. How many square feet per child is required for outdoor play space?

A licensee shall maintain or have access to an outdoor play area with at least 75 square feet for each child for the maximum number of children who will use the playground one at a time.

3. How close does the outdoor play space need to be located from the classroom?

A licensee shall ensure that the outdoor play area is situated adjacent to or within close proximity to the center and available to the children.

4. What do you do if you do not have enough outdoor space to have a playground?

When a licensee can demonstrate that the outdoor space rule cannot be met, the licensee shall provide, in addition to indoor play space. This is a minimum of 700 square feet of open accessible indoor play space for large muscle activity.

5. What is the requirement for the number of staff that has to have CPR and First Aid training to be employed in a childcare center?

Staff in all positions except for the Early Childhood & School Age Interns **need to show proof of completing a first aid course every three years and receive current certification in CPR**

for infants/and or children. The licensee needs to ensure that staff members will complete their first aid and CPR training within 6 months from the date they are hired. Also, at least one staff member on duty & first aid training for all ages of children that of children that will be on the premises or off for trips.

6. What should a staff member do when they suspect child abuse?

The staff member should always remember that the center is required by law to not discourage or inhibit their employees from reporting child abuse. If an employee should see abuse, hear a child speak of abuse or even suspect that there is a possibility of abuse; it should be reported immediately to the licensee. The licensee then needs to immediately as required by law report it.

7. Does a volunteer need to have a TB test on file to work in a licensed center?

Yes

8. What should a licensed caregiver provide for children who become sick in their center?

There should be a separate area for children who become ill. This area removes the children away from possibly spreading a contagious illness. Also, the area needs to be disinfected, include a toilet area, a comfortable resting area and a staff member needs to be there with the child until they feel better or have been picked up by their guardian.

9. How many toilets and sinks need to be provided for 18 children **under** 2 years of age?

There should be at least two toilets at the premises, along with two sinks. There should be one in each bathroom if the bathrooms are separate. If it is in one bathroom I would say they would only need one sink.

10. Can they use potty chairs?

According to the regulations potty chairs are able to be used however, they can't substitute the toilet. The location for these needs to be in the toilet room. The staff needs to maintain sanity procedures each time the potty chair is used.

11. How can a center show that they are following #246 regarding diaper changing areas?

The center can follow the rules in section 246 once it is up to code I would suggest making sure the environment is not smelling like urine.

12. What is acceptable room temperature?

The minimum room temperature shouldn't go any lower than 65 degrees F. As for the maximum temperature it shouldn't go any higher than 85 degrees F.

13. How do they store drugs and poisons?

Under the general safety practices section it clearly states that all containers that include poisonous, toxic or hazardous materials should be kept in a secured storage area. These toxic chemicals should also be clearly marked so that the staff knows they are toxic. For safety precautions they should post a sign and be sure to notify the cleaning staff where the toxic chemicals go & put an emphasis to make sure they are locked.

14. What is an evacuation plan?

Evacuations plans are put into place when either a man-made or natural disaster should happen. Some examples are fire, flood, earthquake, power or utility failures along with toxic spills and many more. The centers need to plan an escape route, practice this with the staff and the children; in order to make sure everyone knows what to do and knows where all the exits are to get out if in fact an emergency should happen.

15. What should be in a first aid kit?

The first aid kit should include disposable gloves, band aids, eye dressings, cold packs triangular bandages, sterile gauze pads, medical tape, scissors, tweezers, pencil and pen, roller gauze, first aid guide, metal or plastic splints, CPR barrier device and non-medicated adhesive strip bandages, plastic bags for anything used for blood handling. These first aid kits should be out of reach of children, only the staff should have access to

them. Admittedly, there could be other things included as well that I have not included.

16. They are planning a field trip. What procedures are necessary for transporting children?

Adult supervision is required during trips for the children off premises for safety precautions. Also, for the student/staff ratio the chaperones count only if not accompanied by other children that are not enrolled at the center. The volunteering parents/guardians need to be supervised while with the children.

17. What is a health care plan?

The health care plan should be in place in case of an emergency, an illness, along with a procedure for contacting parents for child pick up, and plans to access emergency services.

18. What is a health appraisal?

In order for the child to remain admitted at the center a report of the child's health history needs to be provided to the center with-in a month following admission. Accordance to regulation 316 the health appraisal should include health history, physical examination, growth and development, information regarding allergies, medications as well as treatments in case of emergency. Proper documentation of updated immunization records as well as documentation of any blood screenings.

19. What are the reportable communicable diseases?

Upon children arriving at the center are observed by a staff member that is trained to look for symptoms of various communicable diseases. Some examples of these are temperatures about 100 degrees, lethargic, coughing, crying, difficulty breathing, wheezing, irritability, diarrhea, vomiting, or persistent abdominal pain.

20. What should they do for a child that has been injured in the childcare facility?

The staff must ensure that when an accident or injury occurs that emergency procedures are put into place in order to protect the child from any further danger or injury. In addition, the parents/guardians need to be notified immediately. The center also needs to keep a log of all the injuries that may happen at the center.

By Jane Sadowy

See article [What Would You Do with A Child Emergency?](#)

