



Enteric Precautions Fact Sheet

These principles should always be observed in childcare settings.

1. Thorough handwashing after changing any diapers or handling stool-soiled material from any person.
2. Thorough handwashing with soap after going to the bathroom.
3. Soap should be easily accessible to all employees and children.
4. All children should have their hands washed with soap and running water and dried with disposable towels (not with washcloths) after each trip to the bathroom.
5. All children should wash their hands with soap and running water before and after meals. They should also wash their hands upon returning from activities outside the classroom such as playground play.
6. Disposable diapers and disposable washcloths must be discarded carefully into covered containers. The plastic bags lining the covered container should be disposed of frequently via a proper garbage container.

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7. Clothing (cloth diapers, training pants, shorts, socks, etc.) should not be rinsed when soiled. Fecal material may be disposed of in a toilet, but soiled items shall not be rinsed in the toilet or in a sink. Soiled items should be placed into a sealable plastic bag to be sent home for laundering. Stool-soiled items must never be rinsed in handwashing or food preparation sinks.
8. Diapers should be changed on a changing table with an impermeable surface that should be cleaned after each diaper change with a disinfectant solution (1/4 cup household bleach per one gallon of water prepared daily and dispensed in a spray bottle). The surface should be sprayed with the solution after each diaper change and allowed to air dry. Diapering should not take place on any play tables or any tables on which food is prepared or children eat. A handwashing sink should be in the immediate area of the changing table. Bleach solution should be kept at the changing surface, but out of the reach of children.
9. There should be strict separation of food handling and feeding duties from diaper changing and toilet cleaning responsibilities among CCS employees.
10. Any stool-soiled items (floor, beds, toys, etc.) should be washed immediately with the bleach solution.

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11. Accessory items (cans of baby powder, jars of Vaseline, etc.) should be disinfected with the bleach solution daily since they may be inadvertently soiled during a diaper change.
12. Children should not eat from tables, benches, floors or areas that could be contaminated with stool. Eating areas should be reserved for eating only.
13. It is strongly recommended that the age groups be kept separated as much as possible. Particular attention should be taken to separate children who are not yet toilet trained from those that are toilet trained.
14. Children in diapers should only have washable toys. Soft toys (which are not easily disinfected) should not be shared between children or groups
15. Exclude any children and/or employees with diarrhea until diarrhea has ceased.
16. Toys used by younger children should be washed and disinfected at least daily with bleach solution (1 tablespoon household bleach per gallon of water). It is recommended that the toy be washed with warm, soapy water, rinsed and then immersed in the bleach solution for 10-20 minutes. The toy should be removed, rinsed and allowed to air dry.

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17. Toys that children (particularly infants and toddlers) may put into their mouths should be washed and disinfected between uses by individual children. Toys and equipment used by older children that are not typically placed in the mouth should be washed at least weekly and when obviously soiled but disinfection is not required.
18. Water tables can spread germs and should be disinfected with the bleach solution before filling with water. Toys used in the table and the table should be disinfected after each use. Children should wash their hands before and after playing in the water. Discard water when play is over.
19. Do not use wading pools.

*For further information, contact the
Oklahoma City- County Health Department
(405) 425-4437*

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