

## Facilities, Equipment and Materials

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### **Physical Environment and Facilities**

Provide a physical environment and facilities conducive to learning and reflective of the different stages of development of each child.

- Facilities are welcoming to children and families.
- Indoor and outdoor environments are kept clean, safe and well organized at all times.
- Materials are organized and easily accessible to children.
- Environment is safe and accessible for children with disabilities.
- Environments/daily schedules are planned so children may choose among different areas of play or different types of play which support development in all areas.
- Environments are organized so children may play alone or engage in group activities.
- Environments include soft and natural elements such as rugs, cushions, natural lighting, plants, etc.
- The indoor and outdoor environments allow for large motor play.
- The outdoor environment provides a choice among types of activities and materials with which to play, i.e. digging, climbing, riding toys, balancing, etc.

Center space provided must be organized into functional areas that can be recognized by the children and that allow for individual activities and social interactions.

- Classrooms are organized so that separate play areas are clearly designated.
- Space is organized to facilitate a variety of large and small group experiences.
- Space in Centers are separated from general walkways and used exclusively for Infants and Toddlers.

Facilities owned or operated by the Head Start grantee must meet the licensing requirements of 45 CFR 1306.30.

- Head Start facilities comply with local fire and health ordinances.
- Facilities are inspected annually by fire and health personnel.
- Classrooms operating greater than 4 hours daily meet Washington State Child Care Licensing Requirements.
- Conduct a safety inspection, at least annually, to ensure that each facility's space, light, ventilation, heat, and other physical arrangements are consistent with the health, safety and developmental needs of children.
  - Health and fire safety inspections occur annually.
  - Staff inspect indoor and outdoor environments weekly to ensure they are in good condition.
  - Parents use parent monthly health check list.

Provide for the maintenance, repair, safety, and security of all EHS & Head Start facilities, materials and equipment.

- Appropriate cleaning procedures are followed on a daily basis.
- Indoor and outdoor environments including all toys, materials and equipment are inspected weekly to ensure everything is in good condition and children are free from harm.
- All lease agreements specify responsibility for cleaning and maintenance.
- Broken or unsafe equipment is eliminated from the environment immediately.
- Coordinator Assistants are informed when action, regarding broken or damaged equipment, needs to be taken.
- All facilities are appropriately secured. If theft or damage occurs, program managers are informed immediately and appropriate steps taken.
- Child care providers follow all steps outlined in the WACs for licensed child care homes and facilities.

Provide a center-based environment free of toxins, such as cigarette smoke, lead, pesticides, herbicides, and other air pollutants as well as soil and water contaminants. Agencies must ensure that no child is present during the spraying of pesticides or herbicides. Children must not return to the affected area until it is safe to do so.

- The use of tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs in all spaces and adjoining spaces of facilities and at all times of day and evening is prohibited.
- Families are educated about the harmful effects of smoking and secondhand smoke.
- All sites follow the licensing pesticide regulations.
- Health and/or other environmental officials are consulted when necessary to assess the presence of any environmental hazard, i.e. asbestos, lead-based paint, etc.
- Appropriate steps would be taken to arrange for the removal of any environmental hazard determined to be present.
- Products used for cleaning that are toxic or potentially hazardous to children are stored in original containers, labeled and are stored in locations inaccessible to children.
- These materials are used according to the manufacturer's instructions and for their intended purpose.
- Medications are kept in locked cabinets, except epi-pens. All medications including epi-pens are inaccessible to children. Some medications are kept in the refrigerator in a locked box, also inaccessible to children

## Equipment and Materials

Provide and arrange sufficient equipment, toys, materials, and furniture to meet the needs and facilitate the participation of children and adults.

- A variety of equipment, toys, materials and furniture that match the developmental levels of the children in the program is available.
- Materials and equipment available provide for individual and group socialization activities.
- Our program provides diapers to participating families at socialization spaces and at our sites.
- Materials available include art supplies, dramatic play props, manipulatives, musical instruments, blocks, equipment supporting gross motor development and other to support all areas of play and development.
- Toys and materials are size and age appropriate.
- Toys and materials are safe and encourage open-ended exploration.
- Materials used in outdoor environments provide for a variety of types of play and experiences.
- Environments are established that reflect and support the culture of each family.
- Materials and toys demonstrate acceptance of each child's gender, family, race, language and culture.
- Family Focus (for preschool)
- Equipment, toys and furniture are age appropriate, safe and supportive of the abilities and developmental levels of children.
- Adaptations are made for children with disabilities.
- Toys and materials are on low shelving and accessible to children.
- Materials invite play and active exploration.
- Equipment is child-sized and adaptable for children's use.
- Toys, equipment and materials are designed to give children choices.
- Toys, materials and equipment are purchased according to developmentally appropriate practice guidelines.
- Furniture and equipment is safe.
- Toys, materials and equipment are kept clean.
- Toys, materials and equipment are repaired, discarded and/or replaced when necessary.
- Infant and toddler toys are cleaned and disinfected on a regular schedule, in keeping with the licensing requirements.