

Partnering with Child Care Health Consultation

Intent statement

The health and safety of all children in early care and education settings is essential. The Child Care Health Consultation program (CCHC) supports health and safety best practices in early care and education settings while protecting and promoting the healthy growth and development of children and their families.

Procedure and Practice

A child care program should identify and partner with a Child Care Health Consultant. CCHC consultants are professionals with education and experience in child and community health as it relates to child care and have specialized training in child care health consultation.

The Child Care Health Consultant should be knowledgeable in the following areas:

- a. Consultation skills both as a Child Care Health Consultant as well as a member of an interdisciplinary team of consultants;
- b. National health and safety standards for out-of-home child care and the promotion of best practice;
- c. Indicators of quality early care and education;
- d. Day-to-day operations of child care facilities;
- e. State child care licensing and public health requirements;
- f. State health laws, Federal and State education laws (e.g., ADA, IDEA), and state professional practice acts for licensed professionals (e.g., State Nurse Practice Acts);
- g. Infancy and early childhood development, social and emotional health, and developmentally appropriate practice;
- h. American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations regarding infectious disease prevention, including immunizations for children;
- i. Recognition and reporting requirements for infectious diseases;
- j. Importance of children having a medical home along with local and state resources to facilitate access to a medical home such as child health insurance programs including Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
- k. Injury prevention for children;
- l. Oral health for children;
- m. Nutrition and age-appropriate physical activity recommendations for children including feeding of infants and children, the importance of breastfeeding and the prevention of obesity;
- n. Inclusion of children with special health care needs, and developmental disabilities in child care and the development of individual health care plans;
- o. Safe medication administration practices;
- p. Health education of children;
- q. Recognition and reporting requirements for child abuse and neglect/child maltreatment;

- r. Safe sleep practices and policies (including reducing the risk of SIDS and SUIDS) and safety standard requirements for cribs that meet State and Federal laws (approved/reviewed by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission).
- s. Development and implementation of health and safety policies and practices;
- t. Staff health, including adult health screening, occupational health risks, and immunizations;
- u. Disaster planning resources and state requirements for emergency preparedness plans for child care programs;
- v. Community health and mental health resources for child, parent/guardian and staff health;
- w. The importance of serving as a healthy role model for children and staff.

The Child Care Health Consultant should be able to perform or arrange for performance of the following activities:

- a. Assessing caregivers'/teachers' knowledge of health, development, and safety and offering technical assistance and training as indicated;
- b. Assessing parents'/guardians' health, development, and safety knowledge, and offering technical assistance and training as indicated;
- c. Assessing children's knowledge about health and safety and offering technical assistance and training to staff to teach children as indicated;
- d. Assisting and supporting local and state agencies with infectious disease outbreaks in child care programs;
- e. Conducting a comprehensive indoor and outdoor health and safety assessment (playground assessments) and on-going observations of the child care facility;
- f. Consulting collaboratively on-site and/or by telephone or electronic media;
- g. Providing community resources for health, mental health and social needs;
- h. Refer appropriate professionals to caregivers/teachers and parents/guardians for management of children with behavioral, social and emotional problems (Early Childhood Mental Health Specialists), developmental delays (First Steps) and those with special health care needs;
- i. Assisting in development or updating policies and procedures for child care facilities, with emphasis on policies regarding, health, safety and nutrition;
- j. Teaching staff safe medication administration practices;
- k. Interpreting and supporting standards, regulations and accreditation requirements related to health and safety, as well as providing technical advice, separate and apart from an enforcement role of a regulation inspector or determining the status of the facility for recognition;
- l. Understanding and observing confidentiality requirements;
- m. Assisting in the development of disaster/emergency medical plans (especially for those children with special health care needs) in collaboration with community resources;
- n. Developing an obesity prevention program which may include consultation with a nutritionist/registered dietitian (RD) and physical education specialist;

- o. Collaborating with and supporting child care programs participating in the STARS for KIDS Now Quality Rating System by working with STARS program staff to improve quality care;
- p. Collaborating with and supporting the Kentucky Child Care Aware (CCA) program staff to improve quality of care in child care programs.

Applicable

This policy applies to all staff, substitute staff, parents and volunteers in the child care setting.

Communication

This policy will be reviewed with parents upon application and a summary copy will be included in the parent handbook. This policy will be reviewed with staff upon implementation, at orientation, and during annual staff training.

References

American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. 2011. *Caring for our children: National health and safety performance standards; Guidelines for early care and education programs. 3rd edition.* Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; Washington, DC: American Public Health Association. Also available at <http://nrckids.org>.

For more information on health, safety and nutrition for children 0-5, visit the Kentucky Child Care Health Consultation Program website at <http://kentuckycchc.org> or call the Child Care Health Consultation toll- free Helpline 877-281-5277

Reviewed by

Director/Owner

Board Member

CCHC/Health Professional

Staff Member

Parent/Guardian

Effective Date/Review Date

This policy is effective immediately. It will be reviewed yearly by the center director.