

ND Best in Class Health and Safety Standards

To ensure the health and safety of children participating in Best in Class, we have implemented health and safety standards. These standards align with the Health and Human Services Early Childhood Section Chapter 75-03-11, administrative rules for licensed preschool programs. They are abridged and not inclusive of the complete set of rules. If you are an HHS early childhood services licensed program, you must adhere to all the administrative rules for your licensed setting.

Supervision

- Supervision means a staff member responsible for caring for or teaching children is always within sight or hearing range of each child (including lunchtime) and can intervene to protect the health and safety of the children.
- Supervision shall be provided when children are in transition from one space to another space.

Water Supply

- The program must have hot and cold running water in close proximity, preferred in the classroom. Drinking water must be easily accessible to the children.

Toilet and sink facilities

- The program shall provide toilet and sink facilities easily accessible to the areas used by the four-year-old children. Young children need supervision during toileting times.
- Supplies are available and or provided for toileting accidents or changing pull-ups or diapers.
- Bathrooms are safety proofed for children to use them independently (ex. cleaning supplies).

Fire Inspections

- Fire Inspection shall be completed per your program or licensing regulations for each four-year-old section.

Sanitation and Safety

- Features and practices that promote safety and health are implemented (e.g., handwashing charts, food safety procedures, arrival and departure procedures, proper storage of chemicals and medicines).

- The program shall ensure that the preschool bathroom sinks, toilets, tables, chairs, and floors are cleaned daily.
- Cots and mats, if used, must be maintained in a clean, sanitary condition.
- The operator shall ensure that indoor and outdoor equipment, toys, and supplies are safe, strong, nontoxic, and in good repair. The operator shall ensure that all toys and equipment are kept clean and in a sanitary condition. Books and other toys that are not readily cleanable must be sanitized as much as possible without damaging the integrity or educational value of the item.
- The outdoor space is safe (e.g., protected from traffic, free from debris, with cushioning materials under the equipment, with no sharp edges) and arranged so that children can be seen and supervised from all vantage points.
- Program shall ensure that potential hazards, such as noncovered electrical outlets, cleaning chemicals, uninsulated wires, medicines, personal items (purse), and poisonous plants are not accessible to children.
- Staff members and children shall wash their hands, according to recommendations by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, before preparing or serving/eating meals, after diapering, after using toilet facilities, and after any other procedure that may involve contact with bodily fluids.
- Hand sanitizer or wipes may be used when no water is available.
- Program should have at least one first-aid kit maintained and kept in a designated location, inaccessible to children, yet readily accessible to staff.

Meals and Snacks

- Meal and snack serving area must be cleaned and sanitized. Food should be placed on a barrier - disposable or dishware.
- Children in care more than two and one-half hours should bring or be provided with a nutritious snack.

Special Needs

- Teachers, staff, and substitutes must be aware of children with special needs (including, but not limited to dietary, allergies, etc.) and how to be proactive and respond to their care.