

# Child Care Environment Safety Checklist

## General Indoor Areas

Yes No

- Guns are not allowed or kept in the child care setting.
- Areas are kept clean and unobstructed (to prevent physical injuries and fire hazards).
- Stairways are carpeted and have a child-height railing on the right side for descending.
- Smoke alarms are working.
- No peeling paint is visible; no lead-based paint is used.
- Electrical sockets are high and out of reach, or securely covered.
- No dangling or covered electrical extension cords are present.
- Medications and cleaning solutions are never kept in the classroom or playroom.
- All hardware on cribs, tables and bookcases is checked monthly (screws and bolts are tight).
- Chairs or tables are not used as ladders to hang items.
- No sharp corners are exposed on tables or other furniture.
- Toys are safe, with no sharp areas, pinch points or small parts.
- Fire exit from the room requires only one turn or pull-down action to open the door or gate.
- Accessible above-ground-level windows are protected with adequate grills or screens.
- Children cannot reach hot surfaces, hot pipes, heaters or vents.
- Freestanding space heaters are not used.
- Temperature of tap water for handwashing is maintained at 120° F or less.
- Lighting is adequate in all rooms.
- Walkways are clear between sleeping cots for children and staff.
- Children are never left alone in high chairs, chairs, or on changing tables.
- Infant walkers are never used.
- Pacifiers with strings longer than six inches are not allowed.
- Emergency phone is accessible.
- Trash cans are covered and secured.
- No smoking is allowed.
- Floors are smooth, clean and not slippery.

## Kitchen

Yes No

- Only authorized personnel are allowed in the kitchen.
- Sharp utensils are kept out of reach.
- All containers are clearly marked and have secure lids.
- Fire extinguishers are easily accessible.
- Items on shelving units, such as cans of food, are neatly organized, secured, and not piled high.
- Separate sinks are used for handwashing and food preparation.
- Refrigerated medicines are out of reach of children.

## Bathrooms

Yes No

- Cleaning supplies and medicines are not accessible.
- Toilets and sinks are appropriate for use by children; step stools are provided.
- Water temperature for handwashing is maintained at 120° F or less.
- Floors are non-skid.

## Outdoor Playground

Yes No

- Equipment is checked weekly for sharp protrusions.
- Bolts are covered; swings have soft seats.
- Ground is covered with loose-fill surface material.
- Play area is fenced; gate has safety locks.
- Equipment is developmentally appropriate.
- Slides are enclosed or have handrails.
- Only one child at a time uses the equipment.
- There are no spaces where a child's head, leg or arm could be trapped (3 1/2 to 9 inches).
- Constant supervision is provided.
- No poisonous plants, trash or sharp objects are in the area surrounding the playground.
- Sandboxes are kept covered when not in use.

## Toxic Chemicals

Yes No

- Kitchen and cleaning supplies should have their own locked storage unit.
- Cleaning solutions for use in classrooms and playrooms are stored in a locked cabinet.

## Computers, Televisions and Electrical Equipment

Yes No

- Ensure that the equipment is flush against the wall so that the electrical outlet is not exposed.
- Only authorized people provide service for equipment.
- Liquids are not allowed near equipment.
- Children are supervised while equipment is in use.

## Vans and Other Vehicles

Yes No

- First aid kit is available.
- Child restraint devices are appropriate for the child's size, weight and development.
- Seat belts are used and maintained.
- Radio sound level is kept at a minimum, and the program content is appropriate for children.
- Vehicle tires, oil and brakes are maintained regularly.
- Driver has a current driver's license and is properly trained.
- Children are not allowed in the front seat.
- Vehicle is checked for sharp or rusty metal.
- An adult trained in CPR and first aid is available when traveling.
- Bike helmets are available when needed.

## Training

Yes No

- A person certified in pediatric first aid, rescue breathing and first aid for choking is on site at all times.
- Children are taught safety and emergency procedures.
- Staff is fully trained in emergency procedures for all children, including those with special health and/or developmental needs.

## Art Supplies

Yes No

- Nontoxic and natural materials such as dyes and water-based products are used.
- Use of scissors is supervised.
- Aerosol sprays and solvent-based glues are avoided.

## Field Trips

Yes No

- Adequate supervision is provided.
- Each child wears identification.
- Young children hold hands in pairs or hold onto a rope when walking in a group.
- Emergency medications are taken along

## Equipment

Yes No

- First aid kit is appropriately stocked.
- Sports equipment is safe and soft.

## Emergency and Severe Weather Drills

Yes No

- All children are safely evacuated to a safe area within three minutes.
- Monthly fire drills are held.
- Smoke detectors and the alarm system are in place and working.
- Earthquake kits are well stocked and available.
- Each child has an emergency kit in their cubby.

