

## **CCEI900: Safety in the Infant/Toddler Classroom Handout**

### **Welcome to CCEI900**

As an infant/toddler caregiver, you cannot prevent all of life's bumps and bruises. However, you are responsible for preventing injuries by establishing safety-related policies and practices and setting up a well-designed classroom environment. Unfortunately, thousands of children are injured yearly in child care centers because their caregivers did not follow proper safety procedures or take the proper precautions. This course will cover various safety-related practices and procedures designed to keep children safe and decrease the number of injuries as much as possible.

### **Objectives:**

By taking notes on the handout and successfully answering assessment questions, participants will meet the following objectives as a result of taking this course:

- Identify safety and health risks in the infant/toddler setting
- Recognize basic safety practices with regard to handling and feeding infants
- Identify choking hazards, including food and toy hazards
- Define safe diapering practices
- Identify strategies that prevent SIDS
- Recognize hazards in the infant/toddler classroom setting, including clothing, cribs, highchairs, and play equipment
- Define proper procedures for sanitizing toys and other equipment
- Identify objects or areas that require childproofing, such as electrical outlets and stairwells

### **References:**

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2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2023). "National Center for Health Statistics: Accidents and Unintentional Injuries." Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/accidental-injury.htm>
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2023). "Sudden Unexpected Infant Death and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome: Data and Statistics." Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/sids/data.htm>
4. Healthy Child Care Pennsylvania. (2014). "Model Child Care Health Policies." Retrieved from <https://ecels-healthychildcarepa.org/publications/manuals-pamphlets-policies/item/248-model-child-care-health-policies>
5. Herr, J. (2020). *Working with Young Children, 9th edition*. Goodheart-Willcox.
6. Marotz, L. (2018). *Health, Safety, and Nutrition for the Young Child, 10th edition*. Cengage Learning.
7. National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). (2021). *Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children from Birth Through Age 8, 4th edition*. NAEYC.
8. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. (2011). "Child Care Providers: Your Guide to New Crib Standards." Retrieved from <https://cpsc-d8-media-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/5023.pdf>

Annually, how many children are treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries sustained in child care settings?

What reduces the number of injuries to children?

## **Safe Practices**

### **Safely Handling Infants**

How should infants be picked up?

How should infants be held?

### **Supervision**

What are the 3 considerations for good supervision?

## **Student-Teacher Ratio**

### **Be Proactive**

### **Be Aware**

## Safe Feeding Practices

What is important for food preparation?

How should infant food be stored?

How should bottles be warmed?

What is the key to safe and happy feeding for infants who are being bottle-fed?

How should infants who eat solid food be fed?

How should babies be fed food from jars?

What are some food items that may be choking hazards for young children?

### **Diapering**

Describe each of the steps the CDC recommended.

When should potty chairs be emptied and disinfected?

What is important for effective handwashing?

## **SIDS**

What is Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)?

How can the risk of SIDS be reduced?

### **Safe Clothing and Dressing Practices**

Why are buttons and decorations potentially dangerous?

Why are pants potentially dangerous?

Why are drawstrings dangerous?

## **Creating a Safe Physical Environment**

### **Classroom Equipment and Toys**

**Describe safe practices and guidelines for the following equipment:**

**Cribs**

**Highchairs**

**Bouncy Seats**

**Walkers**

**Exercise Saucers**

**Climbers**

**Toys**

**Safe Toy Storage**

**Electrical Outlets and Cords**

**Window Blind Cords**

**Doors and Gates**

**Floors**

**Water Areas**

## Materials

## Areas