Welcome to CCEI900

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

Course 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 sanitizing toys and other equipment
- Identify objects or areas that require childproofing, such as electrical outlets and stairwells

References:

- Various resources from www.healthychildcare.org
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 three 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 recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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**

**Try This!**

**Face-to-Name Head Count**

In many centers, it is policy to conduct a quick "Face-to-Name Head Count" every 30 minutes to ensure that every child is present and accounted for. This involves a separate attendance sheet with each child’s name. The teacher looks at every child’s face and checks their name off the list until all children are checked.

Although this may seem like a repetitive or redundant practice much of the time, it only takes a few seconds to cover the whole class and it can prevent one of the biggest disasters in a child care center: the missing child. It is surprisingly easy for a young child to slip away from the group unnoticed, especially during transitions from indoors to outdoors.

**Try This!**

**Choke Testers**

A “choke tester” can help you determine if an item is a potential choking hazard. Choke testers are available in the safety section of baby supply stores.

Another tester for the infant room is the “toilet roll test.” If the item can fit inside of a toilet paper roll, it is too small for the infant room and may pose a choking hazard.

**Try This!**

**Water-Bleach Solution**

A common way to disinfect toys is to use a water-bleach solution. The water-bleach solution usually consists of 1 tablespoon of bleach to 1 quart of water, mixed fresh every 24 hours. Be sure to check your state regulations for the accepted washing and disinfecting requirements.