

## **Foundational Quality Standards for Early Learning Programs Covered in this Learning Session**

### **WAC 110-300-0240 Clean and healthy environment.**

(1) Early learning program premises and program equipment must be clean and sanitary.

(2) Hard surfaces in early learning programs including, but not limited to, floors (excluding carpet), walls, counters, bookshelves, and tables must be smooth and easily cleanable.

(a) A cleanable surface must be:

(i) Designed to be cleaned frequently and made of sealed wood, linoleum, tile, plastic, or other solid surface materials;

(ii) Moisture resistant; and

(iii) Free of chips, cracks, and tears.

(b) An early learning provider must have at least twenty-four inches of moisture resistant and cleanable material or barrier around sinks, drinking fountains, and toilets.

(c) An early learning provider must clean all surfaces before sanitizing or disinfecting. Surfaces must be cleaned with a soap and water solution or spray cleaner and rinsed. If using a spray cleaner, directions on the label must be followed.

(d) Aerosol sprays and air fresheners must not be used during child care hours.

(e) If a bleach solution is used for sanitizing or disinfecting, an early learning provider must use one that is fragrance-free and follow department of health's current guidelines for mixing bleach solutions for child care and similar environments.

(f) If an early learning provider uses a product other than bleach, including wipes, to sanitize or disinfect, the product must be:

(i) Approved by the department prior to use;

(ii) Used by trained staff only;

(iii) Registered with the EPA and have safety data sheets (SDSs) available;

(iv) Used in accordance with the manufacturer's label, which must include:

(A) Directions for use;

(B) A description of the safety precautions, procedures, and equipment that must be used for mixing the substitute product concentration, if applicable;

(C) A description of the safety precautions and procedures if the substitute product contacts skin or is inhaled, if applicable; and

(D) A description of the procedures and safety precautions for rinsing cleaned areas and cleaning equipment, if applicable.

(v) Labeled as safe to use on food surfaces if the product will be used to sanitize:

- (A) Food contact surfaces; or
- (B) Items such as eating utensils or toys used by the child or put into the child's mouth; and
- (vi) Fragrance-free.

**WAC 110-300-0241 Cleaning schedules.**

(1) An early learning provider must develop and follow a cleaning schedule that includes:

- (a) Food preparation areas, tables and chairs, high chairs, and food service counters, which must be cleaned and sanitized before and after each meal and snack with single use paper towels or one-time use wiping cloths;
- (b) Eating utensils, bottles, drinking equipment, and dishes, which must be cleaned and sanitized after each use;
- (c) Pacifiers, which:
  - (i) Must be cleaned and sanitized after each use by washing and boiling the pacifier or washing the pacifier in the dishwasher; or
  - (ii) May be reused by an individual child if they have been rinsed after each use and stored in a device or container that prevents contamination. Both the pacifier and the storage device or container must be cleaned and sanitized daily;
- (d) Appliances used to prepare food, which must be cleaned after each use and sanitized daily or more often as needed;
- (e) Refrigerators, which must be cleaned and sanitized monthly or more often as needed;
- (f) Freezers, which must be cleaned and sanitized quarterly or more often as needed;
- (g) Toys, which must be cleaned and sanitized as follows:
  - (i) Infant and toddler toys must be cleaned and sanitized at least daily or more often as needed;
  - (ii) All other toys must be cleaned and sanitized weekly or more often as needed; and
  - (iii) When a toy comes into contact with a child's mouth or bodily fluids it must be removed from use until it can be cleaned and sanitized prior to reuse; and
- (h) Furniture and equipment, which must be cleaned monthly or more often as needed.

(2) Machine washable clothes provided by the early learning program must be laundered as needed.

(3) Sleeping equipment must be:

- (a) Cleaned and sanitized after each use if used by more than one child; or
- (b) Cleaned and sanitized weekly or more often as needed if assigned to only one child.

(4) Bedding must be:

- (a) Laundered and sanitized after each use if used by more than one child; or
- (b) Laundered and sanitized weekly or more often as needed if assigned to only one child.

(5) Sinks that are not used for handwashing after toileting, diapering, or food preparation must be cleaned and sanitized daily or more often as needed.

(6) Toileting and diaper changing areas including, but not limited to, toilets, counters, sinks, and floors must be cleaned and disinfected daily or more often as needed.

(7) Diaper changing tables and changing pads must be cleaned and disinfected between children, even if using a nonabsorbent covering that is discarded after each use.

(8) Garbage cans and receptacles must be emptied on a daily basis and cleaned and disinfected as needed.

(9) Diaper receptacles must be emptied, cleaned, and disinfected daily or more often as needed. Contents of a diaper receptacle must be removed from the licensed space, and replaced with a new liner at least daily or more often if odor is present.

(10) Floors must be cleaned by either sweeping or vacuuming at least once per day or more often as needed. Moisture resistant flooring must be cleaned and sanitized at least once per day or more often as needed.

(11) Large area rugs or installed carpet must be cleaned at least once every six months, or when visible dirt or stains are present, using a carpet shampoo machine, steam cleaner, or other method that minimizes the exposure of children in care to pathogens and allergens.

- (a) An early learning provider must not use dry shampoos or dry chemical sanitizers or disinfectants, unless approved by the department.
- (b) If caring for infants, a provider must either place a safe and clean material over large rugs or carpet, or clean rugs or carpet at least once per month or more often if visible stains are present.

(12) Small area rugs must be shaken outdoors or vacuumed daily, and laundered as needed.

(13) Carpets or area rugs soiled with bodily fluids must be cleaned and disinfected with high heat or an EPA registered product. An early learning provider must limit exposure to blood and body fluids during cleanup.

(14) Children must not:

- (a) Be present when carpets are cleaned or vacuumed unless the provider is spot vacuuming, the vacuum has a HEPA filter, and children are not within the immediate area; or
- (b) Use or play on or near carpet areas until dry.

**WAC 110-300-0245 Laundry and equipment.**

(1) Laundry and laundry equipment at an early learning program must be inaccessible to children and separated from areas where food is prepared to prevent cross contamination.

(2) Dirty or soiled laundry must be:

- (a) Kept separate from clean laundry;
- (b) Cleaned with laundry soap or detergent;
- (c) Rinsed; and
- (d) Sanitized:
  - (i) With bleach or a similar sanitizer registered by the EPA; or
  - (ii) By using a "sanitize" setting on a washing machine or dryer that reaches at least 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

(3) A dryer must be vented to the outside of the building or following the manufacturer's specifications.

**WAC 110-300-0250 Private septic systems.**

(1) If an early learning program is served by a private septic system, the septic system must be designed, constructed, and maintained in accordance with state and local health jurisdiction requirements.

- (a) A private septic system must be inspected by a septic system maintenance service provider approved by the local health jurisdiction and monitored on a routine basis. Any deficiencies noted in an inspection report must be corrected with the necessary permits and inspections.
- (b) The most recent private septic system pumping and inspection records must be kept on the licensed premises or in the program's administrative office.
- (c) If an early learning provider does not have the documentation described in (b) of this subsection, the provider must obtain from the state, local health jurisdiction, or a department approved private company such documentation within six months of the date this section becomes effective.
- (d) An early learning provider must notify the department and local health jurisdiction if there is a problem, concern, or malfunction with a private septic system.
- (e) If a private septic system problem, concern, or malfunction interferes with the proper care of children and an approved alternative is not available, the state, local health jurisdiction, or department may require an early learning program to close until the system is inspected, repaired, and approved by the local health jurisdiction.

(2) Pursuant to WAC [110-300-0146](#)(2), playground design must not:

- (a) Interfere with access to or the operation of a private septic system, including a private septic system's drain field and tanks; or
- (b) Be located or placed in a way that impacts the private septic system's drain field or tanks as determined by local officials.

**WAC 110-300-0255 Pest control.**

(1) An early learning provider must take appropriate steps to safely prevent or control pests that pose a risk to the health and safety of adults and children in and around the licensed space. Pest control steps must include:

- (a) **Prevention.** A provider must take steps to prevent attracting pests including, but not limited to, identifying and removing food and water sources that attract pests.
- (b) **Inspection.** Indoor and outdoor areas in and around the licensed space must be inspected for evidence of pests. A provider must document the date and location if evidence is found.
- (c) **Identification.** Pests found in the licensed space must be identified and documented so the pest may be properly removed or exterminated.
- (d) **Management.** A provider must document steps taken to remove or exterminate the pests if found in the licensed space.
- (e) **Notification.** If pesticides are used, the early learning provider must notify the parents or guardians of enrolled children what pesticide will be applied and where it will be applied no less than forty-eight hours before application, unless in cases of emergency (such as a wasp nest).
- (f) **Application.** Pesticide must be applied to early learning program space when children are not present. When pesticide is applied, center providers must comply with chapter [17.21](#) RCW and family home providers must comply with the pesticide manufacturer's instructions.

(2) An early learning provider must have a pest control policy that emphasizes prevention and natural, nonchemical, low-toxicity methods where pesticides or herbicides are used as a last resort (i.e., integrated pest management).

**WAC 110-300-0260 Storage of hazardous and maintenance supplies.**

(1) An early learning provider must ensure all poisonous or dangerous substances including, but not limited to, fuels, solvents, oils, laundry, dishwasher, other detergents, sanitizing products, disinfectants and items labeled "keep out of reach of children" are stored:

- (a) In a location that is inaccessible to children;
- (b) Separate and apart from food preparation areas, food items, and food supplies;
- (c) In their original containers or clearly labeled with the name of the product if not in the original container; and

(d) In compliance with the manufacturer's directions (including, not storing products near heat sources).

(2) Storage areas and storage rooms must:

(a) Be inaccessible to children;

(b) Have locking doors or other methods to prevent child access;

(c) Have moisture resistant and easily cleanable floors;

(d) Have a designated maintenance or janitorial utility sink, or another method to dispose of wastewater (kitchen sinks must not be used for disposal of wastewater); and

(e) Be kept clean and sanitary.

(3) Center early learning program space with storage areas and rooms that contain chemicals, utility sinks, or wet mops must be ventilated to the outdoors with an exterior window or mechanical ventilation to prevent the buildup of odors, fumes, or other hazards.

(4) Family home providers must store and maintain chemicals and wet mops in a manner that minimizes the buildup of odors, fumes, or other hazards.

(5) Saws, power tools, lawn mowers, toilet plungers, toilet brushes, and other maintenance and janitorial equipment must be inaccessible to children.