

Terms and Definitions

Active supervision or actively supervise means a heightened standard of care beyond supervision. This standard requires an early learning program to see and hear the children they are responsible for during higher risk activities. The provider must be able to prevent or instantly respond to unsafe or harmful events.

Clean or cleaning means to remove dirt and debris from a surface by scrubbing and washing with a detergent solution and rinsing with water. This process must be accomplished before sanitizing or disinfecting a surface.

Disinfect means to eliminate virtually all germs from an inanimate surface by the process of cleaning and rinsing, followed by:

(a) A chlorine bleach and water solution following the manufacturer's instructions;
or

(b) Other disinfectant products registered with the EPA, if used strictly according to the manufacturer's label instructions including, but not limited to, quantity, time the product must be left in place, adequate time to allow the product to dry or rinsing if applicable, and appropriateness for use on the surface to be disinfected. Any disinfectant used on food contact surfaces or toys must be labeled "safe for food contact surfaces."

Early learning professionals are all early learning providers, child care licensing staff, and other professionals in the early learning field.

Inaccessible to children means a method to prevent a child from reaching, entering, using, or getting to items, areas, or materials of an early learning program.

Infant is a child birth through eleven months of age.

Licensed space means the indoor and outdoor space on the premises approved by the department for the purpose of providing licensed child care.

Pet means a domestic or tamed animal or bird kept for companionship or pleasure.

Premises means the licensed and unlicensed space at the licensed address including, but not limited to, buildings, lands, and residences.

RCW means Revised Code of Washington.

Toddler means a child twelve months through twenty-nine months of age.

Unlicensed space means the indoor and outdoor areas of the premises not approved by the department as licensed space that the early learning provider must make inaccessible to the children during child care hours.

WA DCYF Educational Series
Pets and Animals in Early Learning Programs

WAC means Washington Administrative Code.