

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

WAC 110-300-0147 Weather conditions and outdoor hazards.

(1) An early learning provider must observe weather conditions and other possible hazards to take appropriate action for child health and safety. Conditions that pose a health or safety risk may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Heat in excess of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or pursuant to advice of the local authority;
- (b) Cold less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit, or pursuant to advice of the local authority;
- (c) Lightning storm, tornado, hurricane, or flooding if there is immediate or likely danger;
- (d) Earthquake;
- (e) Air quality emergency ordered by a local or state authority on air quality or public health;
- (f) Lockdown notification ordered by a public safety authority; and
- (g) Other similar incidents.

(2) An early learning provider must dress children for weather conditions during outdoor play time.

WAC 110-300-0148 Gardens in outdoor early learning program space.

(1) A garden in an early learning program space must:

- (a) Have safeguards in place to minimize risk of cross-contamination by animals;
- (b) Use soil free from agricultural or industrial contaminants such as lead or arsenic if gardening directly in the ground;
- (c) Use new soil that is labeled as organic and obtained from a gardening supply store or other retail store if gardening in raised beds; and
- (d) Use water that comes from a private well approved by the local health jurisdiction or from a public water system. An early learning provider must make water for gardens inaccessible to children if the provider uses irrigation water.

(2) Garden beds must be made of materials that will not leach chemicals into the soil including, but not limited to, wood treated with chromated copper arsenate, creosote or pentachlorophenol, reclaimed railroad ties, or tires.

(3) Any herbicide or pesticide must be applied pursuant to the product manufacturer's directions. The product must not be applied during program hours. Children must not apply the product, or have access to the garden during the manufacturer's prescribed waiting period following application.

(4) Commonplace toxic plants or plants with poisonous leaves (for example: Tomato, potato, or rhubarb) may be grown in the garden. An early learning provider must actively supervise children who are able to access a garden where commonplace toxic plants or plants with poisonous leaves are growing.

WAC 110-300-0175 Water hazards and swimming pools.

To prevent injury or drowning and ensure the health and safety of children, an early learning provider must comply with the requirements described in this section.

(1) The following bodies of water must be inaccessible to children in care by using a physical barrier with a locking mechanism in compliance with WAC 246-260-031(4):

(a) Swimming pools when not being used as part of the early learning program, hot tubs, spas and jet tubs;

(b) Ponds, lakes, storm retention ponds, ditches, fountains, fish ponds, landscape pools or similar bodies of water; and

(c) Uncovered wells, septic tanks, wastewater, wastewater tanks, below grade storage tanks, farm manure ponds or other similar hazards.

(2) An early learning provider must comply with the following requirements when using a swimming pool as part of the early learning program:

(a) Comply with the supervision requirements of WAC 110-300-0350;

(b) Audible alarms must be on all doors, screens, and gates in licensed areas that lead to a swimming pool. The alarm must be sufficient to warn staff when children enter the outdoor area and could access the swimming pool;

(c) Swimming pools must be maintained according to manufacturer specifications;

(d) Swimming pools must be cleaned and sanitized according to manufacturer instructions, chapter 246-260 WAC, and department of health or local health jurisdiction guidelines;

(e) A swimming pool must not be used if the main drain cover is missing; and

(f) Children in diapers or toilet training must wear swim pants to lower the risk of contaminating the water.

- (3) Filtered wading pools must be inaccessible to children when not in use. Wading pools that do not have a filtering system are not permitted in the early learning program space.
- (4) For bodies of water not located in early learning program space, but that are in close proximity, a physical barrier on the property must make such bodies of water inaccessible to children in care.
- (5) Five gallon buckets or other similar containers must not be used for infant or toddler water play.
- (6) If an early learning provider uses water tables or similar containers, the tables or containers must be emptied and sanitized daily, or more often if necessary.