

Health and Safety Inspections

Policy

Environments used to provide services to Head Start children and families are healthy, safe, and free of hazards.

Procedure

- Prior to beginning services at a new location, a screening tool is used to evaluate the health and safety of that environment. All needed follow-up is completed before the environment is used to provide services.
- At least annually, all sites used for programming, including regular socializations, will be assessed for health and safety issues in areas noted above by staff and/or Management Team members.
- Specific risks addressed include unintended injuries, burns, accidental poisoning, choking or suffocation hazards, and traffic/pedestrian accidents. Areas assessed include, but are not limited to physical environment, equipment, toys, furniture, materials, supervision of children, transportation at applicable sites, and policies/procedures related to health and safety.
- Results of screenings are maintained at the Main Head Start Office.
- An inspection of the indoor and outdoor environments is conducted each day before children arrive via a safety, cleaning, and maintenance checklist. This log is always posted and available for parents to use and/or review.
- Any toys, supplies, or other equipment that could pose a choking or suffocation hazard are removed from the environment immediately.

This policy complies with Head Start Performance Standard 45CFR Sections 1304.22 and 1304.53 and Minnesota Department of Human Services Child Care Center Licensing.

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