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| **Cleaning and Sanitation – Clean and healthy environment** | | |
| **Family Home WAC** | **Center WAC** | **Proposed WAC** | **Satisfactory/Minor/Major revisions; Concerns; Suggested Alternate Language** | **Conflicts with ECEAP, Head Start, Schools District Standards and Practices** | |
| WAC 170-296A-3700  The licensee must clean installed carpet in the licensed space at least once each calendar year or more often when soiled, using a carpet shampoo machine, steam cleaner, or dry carpet cleaner.  WAC 170-296A-3875  The licensee must clean and sanitize toys as provided in WAC [170-296A-0010](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=170-296A-0010):  (1) Before a child plays with a toy that has come into contact with another child's mouth or bodily fluids;  (2) After being contaminated with bodily fluids or visibly soiled; or  (3) Not less than weekly when the toys have been used by the children.  WAC 170-296A-3925  (1) The following table describes the minimum frequency for cleaning, sanitizing, or disinfecting items in the licensed space.  CHART  (2) "Disinfect" or "disinfecting" means to eliminate virtually all germs on a surface by the process of cleaning and rinsing, followed by:  (a) A chlorine bleach and water solution of one tablespoon of chlorine bleach to one quart of cool water, allowed to stand wet for at least two minutes; or  (b) Other disinfectant product if used strictly according to the manufacturer's label instructions including, but not limited to, quantity used, 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.  (3) "Sanitize" means to reduce the number of microorganisms on a surface by the process of:  (a) Cleaning and rinsing, followed by using:  (i) A chlorine bleach and water solution of three-quarters teaspoon of chlorine bleach to one quart of cool water, allowed to stand wet for at least two minutes; or  (ii) Another sanitizer product if used strictly according to manufacturer's label instructions including, but not limited to, quantity used, time the product must be left in place, and adequate time to allow the product to dry, and appropriateness for use on the surface to be sanitized. If used on food contact surfaces or toys, a sanitizer product must be labeled as safe for food contact surfaces; or  (b) For laundry and dishwasher use only, "sanitize" means use of a bleach and water solution or temperature control. | WAC 170-295-5040  (1) Surfaces must be easily cleanable. A cleanable surface is one that is:  (a) Designed to be cleaned frequently;  (b) Moisture-resistant; and  (c) Free from cracks, chips or tears.  (2) Examples of cleanable surfaces include linoleum, tile, sealed wood, and plastic.  (3) You must maintain the building, equipment and premises in a clean and sanitary manner that protects the children from illness including but not limited to:  (a) Ensure that floors around sinks, toilets, diaper change areas and potty chairs are moisture resistant and easily cleanable for at least twenty-four inches surrounding the surfaces; and  (b) Take measures to control rodents, fleas, cockroaches, and other pests in and around the center premises such as:  (i) Keep all trash and garbage cans tightly sealed;  (ii) Screen open windows and doors;  (iii) Seal and store food properly; and  (iv) Keep floors and other areas free from crumbs and food debris.  (4) Surfaces can be cleaned:  (a) With any cleaning solution such as soap and water, cleanser or cleaning spray;  (b) With a concentration according to label directions; and  (c) Rinsed as needed per label directions.  (5) You may use a bleach solution to sanitize in the following areas:  (a) Diapering areas;  (b) Surfaces exposed to body fluids;  (c) Bathrooms and bathroom equipment;  (d) Table tops;  (e) High chairs;  (f) Toys;  (g) Dishes;  (h) Floors; and  (i) Sleeping mats.  (6) You may use any solution that is intended for sanitizing if the solution is approved by the department. When you use a product other than bleach to sanitize, you must:  (a) Follow the label directions for use including concentration, contact time and rinsing; and  (b) Be sure that if you use the product on food contact surfaces and items that children might put into their mouths, the label states the product is safe for food contact surfaces.  dusting, cleaning toys, toy shelves, and equipment. | **170-300-0240**  **Clean and healthy environment.**   1. Early learning program premises and program equipment must be clean and sanitary. Weight #7      1. Early learning program surfaces including, but not limited to, floors, walls, counters, bookshelves, and tables must be smooth and easily cleanable. A cleanable surface must be:    1. Designed to be cleaned frequently and made of sealed wood, linoleum, tile, plastic, or other solid surface materials;    2. Moisture resistant; and    3. Free of chips, cracks, and tears. Weight #6 2. An early learning provider must have at least 24 inches of moisture resistant and cleanable material around sinks, drinking fountains, toilets, and diaper changing areas. Weight #5 3. 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. If using a spray cleaner, directions on the label must be followed. Weight #6      1. Aerosol sprays and air fresheners must not be used during child care hours. Weight #5 2. If a bleach solution is used for sanitizing or disinfecting, an early learning provider must use one that is fragrance-free and follow DOH’s current Guidelines for Mixing Bleach Solutions for Child Care and Similar Environments. Weight #6 3. If an early learning provider uses a product other than bleach to sanitize or disinfect, the product must be:    1. Approved by the department prior to use;    2. Registered with the EPA and have Safety Data Sheets (SDS) available;    3. Used in accordance with the manufacturer’s label, which must include:       1. Directions for use;       2. A description of the safety precautions, procedures, and equipment that must be used for mixing the substitute product concentration, if applicable;       3. A description of the safety precautions and procedures if the substitute product contacts skin or is inhaled, if applicable; and       4. A description of the procedures and safety precautions for rinsing cleaned areas and cleaning equipment, if applicable.   (d) Labeled as safe to use on food surfaces if the product will be used to sanitize:   * + 1. Food contact surfaces; or     2. Items such as eating utensils or toys used by the child or put into the child’s mouth; and   1. Fragrance-free. Weight #6  1. Sanitizing or disinfecting wipes must not be used in the licensed space. Weight #4 |  |  | |
| **Justification:**  The proposed regulation, 170-300-0240 Clean and healthy environment, makes three changes, which are 1) to provide a 24 inch area by all sinks, drinking fountains, toilets, and diaper changing areas that must be moisture resistant and easily cleanable, 2) to eliminate use of air fresheners during hours that children are at the early learning program, and 3) to prohibit use of wipes.  *Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition* notes, at Standard 5.3.1.6: Floors, Walls, and Ceilings, that “Floors, walls, and ceilings should be in good repair, and easy to clean when soiled. Only smooth, nonporous surfaces should be permitted in areas that are likely to be contaminated by body fluids or in areas used for activities involving food,” thus informing the proposal for flooring. In keeping with DEL’s commitment to clarity and specificity in the regulations, the 24 inch area is included to make it easier for early learning programs to implement the proposed regulation.  Air fresheners are covered in *Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition* Standard 5.2.1.6: Ventilation to Control Odors, which recommends against any use of air fresheners, stating “Chemical air fresheners or air sanitizers should not be used.” DEL has modified this and specifies the restriction during hours that children are in the facility.  The requirement not to use sanitizing or disinfecting wipes in licensed early learning space is based on health and safety concerns for children. According the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), sanitizing or disinfecting wipes use chemicals that could be hazardous to health and development of enrolled children. The EPA states that “Manufacturers are not required to list all the ingredients on the label” and “Only chemicals the chemicals that kill bacteria, viruses, or mold (disinfectants) have to be labeled.” See the EPA’s *Green Cleaning Toolkit for Early Care and Education*, page 32 (found at: <https://www.epa.gov/childcare/healthy-child-care-trainings-and-webinars-government-agencies>). Because disinfecting or sanitizing wipes utilize chemicals that are not registered with the EPA, even though they are available at most stores, DEL’s proposed requirement prohibiting sanitizing and disinfecting wipes is based on the best science and data, and is intended to adequately protect the health and safety of enrolled children in early learning settings. | | | | |

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| **Cleaning and Sanitation – Cleaning schedules** | | | | |
| **Family Home WAC** | **Center WAC** | **Proposed WAC** | **Satisfactory/Minor/Major revisions; Concerns; Suggested Alternate Language** | **Conflicts with ECEAP, Head Start, Schools District Standards and Practices** | | |
| WAC 170-296A-3875  The licensee must clean and sanitize toys as provided in WAC [170-296A-0010](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=170-296A-0010):  (1) Before a child plays with a toy that has come into contact with another child's mouth or bodily fluids;  (2) After being contaminated with bodily fluids or visibly soiled; or  (3) Not less than weekly when the toys have been used by the children.  WAC 170-296A-3925  (1) The following table describes the minimum frequency for cleaning, sanitizing, or disinfecting items in the licensed space. | WAC 170-295-5040  (7) The following are surfaces that need to be cleaned and sanitized and a minimum schedule for that cleaning:  (a) Tables and counters used for food serving and high chairs before and after each meal or snack;  (b) Sinks, counters and floors daily, or more often if necessary;  (c) Refrigerators monthly or more often as needed;  (d) Bathrooms (including sinks, toilets, counters and floors) daily and more often if necessary;  (e) Floors will be swept, cleaned and sanitized daily;  (f) Carpet vacuumed at least daily and shampooed as needed but at least every six months;  (g) Toys that children place in their mouth between use by different children;  (h) Infant and toddler toys daily; and  (i) Sleeping mats, cribs and other forms of bedding between use by different children and at least weekly.  (8) Your health policies and procedures must describe your frequency for general cleaning, | **170-300-0241**  **Cleaning schedules.**   * + - 1. An early learning provider must develop and follow a cleaning schedule that includes:  1. Food preparation areas, tables and chairs, high chairs, and food service counters must be cleaned and sanitized before and after each meal and snack with single use paper towels or one time use wiping cloths; 2. Eating utensils, bottles, drinking equipment, and dishes must be cleaned and sanitized after each use; 3. Pacifiers must be cleaned and sanitized after each use (sanitizing must be done by washing and boiling the pacifier or washing the pacifier in the dishwasher); 4. Appliances used to prepare food must be cleaned after each use and sanitized daily, or more often as needed; 5. Refrigerators and freezers must be cleaned and sanitized monthly or more often as needed; and 6. Toys must be cleaned and sanitized daily, or as needed, including but not limited to being removed from the play area or cleaned and sanitized prior to reuse when a toy comes into contact with another child’s mouth or bodily fluids.   Weight #6   1. Machine washable clothes and toys must be laundered weekly or more often as needed. Weight #5 2. Sleeping equipment must be:    1. Cleaned and sanitized after each use if used by more than one child; or    2. Cleaned and sanitized weekly or more often as needed if assigned to a child. Weight #5 3. Bedding must be:    1. Laundered and sanitized weekly or more often as needed when assigned to a child. A sanitizer must be added to the rinse cycle.    2. Laundered and sanitized after each use if used by more than one child. A sanitizer must be added to the rinse cycle. Weight #5      1. Sinks that are not used for handwashing after toileting, diapering, or food preparation must be cleaned and sanitized daily or more often as needed. Weight #5 2. Toileting and diaper changing areas including, but not limited to, toilets, counters, sinks, floors, and bathroom garbage cans must be cleaned and disinfected daily or more often as needed. Weight #6 3. Diaper changing tables and changing pads must be cleaned and disinfected after each use. Weight #7 4. Diaper pails and garbage receptacles must be emptied, cleaned, and disinfected daily or more often as needed. Weight #6 5. Floors must be:    1. Cleaned by either sweeping or vacuuming at least once per day or more often as needed; and    2. Cleaned and sanitized at least once per day or more often as needed for moisture resistant flooring. Weight #5 6. 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.    1. An early learning provider must not use dry shampoos or dry chemical sanitizers or disinfectants.    2. If caring for infants, a provider must either supply a safe and clean material over large rugs or carpet, or clean rugs or carpet if visible stains are present and at least once per month. Weight #5 7. Small area rugs must be shaken outdoors or vacuumed daily, and laundered weekly. Weight #5 8. Carpets or area rugs soiled with bodily fluids must be cleaned and disinfected with an EPA registered product. Precautions must be used to limit exposure to blood and body fluids during cleanup. Weight #7 9. Children must not:    1. Be present when carpets are cleaned or vacuumed; or   (b) Use or play on or near carpet areas until dry. Weight #5 |  |  | | |
| **Justification:**  170-300-0241 Cleaning schedules proposed the following revisions: 1) pacifier cleaning (after each use) ; 2) refrigerator/freezer cleaning (monthly); 3) toy cleaning (daily); 4) laundering of toys and clothes (weekly, or more frequently, as needed); 5) rug/carpet cleaning, monthly, if infants are included in the program; 6) EPA approved materials to clean rugs/carpet that have had bodily fluid on them; 7) prohibition on children present during carpet/rug cleaning process, including drying.  In *Caring for our Children, 3rd Edition*, Pacifiers, refrigerators, and toy cleaning and laundering are addressed in Appendix K, which provides for the Routine Schedule for Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting, and is incorporated into this proposal. Appendix J and L together address the approach to cleaning rugs and carpets with bodily fluid on them. “The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that only EPA-registered products be used. Only a sanitizer or disinfectant product with an EPA registration number on the label can make public health claims that they are effective in reducing or inactivating germs. Many bleach and hydrogen peroxide products are EPA registered and can be used to sanitize or disinfect.” Appendix L and Appendix J addresses the 7th change, and says that, when disinfecting rugs/carpets, to “Apply when children are not present in the area. Ventilate the area by allowing fresh air to circulate and allow the surfaces to completely air dry or wipe dry after the required contact time before allowing children back into the area.” Appendix L addresses the removal of bodily fluids, and noted the importance of disinfecting products to do this, which is what is noted above, and addressed in the Appendix J. Appendix L specifically states, “Treat urine, stool, vomit, blood, and body fluids,except for human milk, as potentially infectious. Spills of body fluid should be cleaned up and surfaces disinfected immediately.” It goes on, “For blood and body fluid spills on carpeting, blot to remove body fluids from the fabric as quickly as possible. Then disinfect by spot-cleaning with a combination detergent/disinfectant, and shampooing, or steam cleaning the contaminated surface.”  The change regarding the necessity of cleaning carpets at least monthly for infants relates to the overall discouragement of the use of carpets and rugs in *Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition*. *Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition*, Standard 5.3.1.6 states “Carpeting should be clean, in good repair, nonflammable, and nontoxic.” While a regular schedule for cleaning is not specified, in keeping with DEL’s commitment to as much specificity as possible, the proposed regulation defines regular as monthly.  Proposed WAC 170-300-0241 is a low cost requirement for center and family home early learning programs to shampoo or steam clean large area rugs and carpets monthly or at least every six months depending on what age group of children the licensee cares for. Shampooing or steam cleaning rugs and carpets is necessary to promote the health and safety of children by helping prevent exposure to bacteria, allergens, mold spores, lead dust, and other harmful elements. These elements are particularly harmful to infants and toddlers, so the proposed rule requires cleaning at least once per month for licensees that care for these age groups. The cost of renting or purchasing carpet cleaning machines, or paying for this service to be done professionally, is not expected to exceed the minor cost threshold for the businesses in this industry. | | | | | |

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| **Cleaning and Sanitation – Laundry and equipment** | | |
| **Family Home WAC** | **Center WAC** | **Proposed WAC** | **Satisfactory/Minor/Major revisions; Concerns; Suggested Alternate Language** | **Conflicts with ECEAP, Head Start, Schools District Standards and Practices** |
| WAC 170-296A-3850  Cleaning laundry  The licensee must wash child care laundry using:  (1) Laundry soap or detergent; and  (2)(a) Temperature control (warm or hot cycle); or  (b) Chlorine bleach. | WAC 170-295-5110  What are the requirements if I do laundry on the premises or offsite?  (1) If you choose to do laundry on the premises or offsite you must be sure the laundry is:  (a) Cleaned and rinsed;  (b) Sanitized with hot water that reaches at least 140 degrees Fahrenheit or use an alternative method such as chlorine bleach that has been approved by the department;  (c) Stored to keep soiled linen and laundry separate from clean linen;  (d) Separate from kitchen and food preparation areas; and  (e) Inaccessible to children.  (2) You also must ensure the dryer is ventilated to outside the building. | **170-300-0245**  **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. Weight #1       2. Dirty or soiled laundry must be:          1. Kept separate from clean laundry; Weight #6          2. Cleaned with laundry soap or detergent; Weight #5          3. Rinsed; and   Sanitized with bleach or a similar sanitizer registered by the EPA; or  Sanitized by using a “sanitize” setting on a washing machine that reaches at least 140 degrees Fahrenheit, if possible. Weight #5  (3) A dryer must be vented to outside of the building. Weight #5 |  |  |
| **Justification:**  The proposed revision to 170-300-0245 Laundry and equipment adds venting of a dryer to the outside. *Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition* 5.4.4.2: Location of Laundry Equipment and Water Temperature for Laundering states that “Dryers should be vented to the outside.” | | |

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| **Cleaning and Sanitation – Private septic systems** | | |
| **Family Home WAC** | **Center WAC** | **Proposed WAC** | **Satisfactory/Minor/Major revisions; Concerns; Suggested Alternate Language** | **Conflicts with ECEAP, Head Start, Schools District Standards and Practices** | |
| WAC 170-296A-1375  Private septic system—Inspection and maintenance.  (1) If the licensed premises is served by a private septic system (not connected to a sewer system) the septic system must be maintained in a manner acceptable to the local health jurisdiction.  (2) The licensee must follow the local health jurisdiction's requirements for periodic septic system inspection and maintenance.  (3) If there are no local health jurisdiction's requirements for periodic septic system inspections the licensee must:  (a) Have the system inspected by a septic system inspector certified by the local health jurisdiction:  (i) Within six months prior to submitting a license application under WAC [170-296A-1250](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=170-296A-1250); and  (ii) Every three years after an initial license is issued to the license applicant under this chapter.  (b) Maintain the septic system as required by the inspection report.  (4) Septic system inspection and maintenance records must be kept on the premises and made available to the department upon request. | WAC 170-295-5080  (1) You must dispose of sewage and liquid waste into a public sewer system or approved on-site sewage disposal system (septic system) designed, constructed and maintained as required in chapters [246-272A](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=246-272A) and [173-240](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-240) WAC and local ordinances.  (2) If you have an on-site sewage system, you must:  (a) Have written verification that the system has been approved by the department of health or local health jurisdiction; and   * 1. Locate your drain field and venting to be sure that:   (i) Playgrounds are not on and do not interfere with the access to or operation of the on-site sewage system including the drain field; and  (ii) That drain field venting does not vent onto the playground. | **170-300-0250**  **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. For purposes of this section, a septic system is a “private septic system” if the septic system is not connected to a public sewer system maintained by a government agency. A “private septic system” includes, but is not limited to, the septic system’s drain field and tanks. Weight #6      1. A private septic system must be:    1. Inspected by a septic system inspector certified by the local health jurisdiction; and    2. Pumped at least once every three years or more often as required by the state or a local health jurisdiction.   Weight #5   1. The most recent private septic system pumping and inspection records must be kept on the premises and made available to the department upon request. Weight #4 2. An early learning program must have inspection documentation from the state, local health jurisdiction, or a private company. This documentation must state that the private septic system and drain field can accommodate the number of occupants, including children and adults, currently using or planned to use the private septic system. Weight #5 3. If an early learning provider does not have the documentation described in subsection (4) of this section, the provider must obtain from the state, local health jurisdiction, or a department approved private company such documentation within three months of the date this section becomes effective.   Weight #4   1. Playgrounds must not:    1. Interfere with access to or the operation of a private septic system, including a private septic system’s drain field and tanks; and    2. Be located or placed on the private septic system’s drain field or tanks. Weight #6 2. An early learning provider must provide notice to the department and local health jurisdiction if there is a problem, concern, or malfunction with a private septic system. Weight #6 3. If a private septic system malfunctions or a problem arises that interferes with the proper operation of the system, the state, local health jurisdiction, or department may require an early learning program to close until the system is repaired and operates according to the manufacturer’s standards. Weight #6 |  |  | |
| **Justification:**  This regulation addressing private septic systems proposes to specify that a playground cannot interfere with a septic system, that notice must be provided if there is a problem with a septic system, and that a facility may be closed if there is a problem with a septic system.  *Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition* Standard 5.2.7.1: On-Site Sewage Systems addresses playgrounds, stating “The wastewater or septic system drainage field should not be located within the outdoor play area of a child care program, unless the drainage field has been designed by a sanitation engineer with the presence of an outdoor play area in mind and meets the approval of the local health authority. The exhaust vent from a wastewater or septic system and drainage field should not be located within the children’s outdoor play area.”  In Washington state, private septic systems (or “onsite sewage systems” as defined in WAC 246-272A-0010) are regulated by the Washington state Department of Health. See chapters 256-272A through 256-273 WAC. Because these systems contain various bacteria such as fecal coliform that can contaminate water supplies and endanger the health and safety of children, DEL may require an early learning program to close if a private septic system malfunctions and there is no alternative way to provide safe, clean water to children in care. Closing an early learning program ensures the health and safety of enrolled children by preventing contamination from a compromised septic system. DEL would follow guidance from the local health jurisdiction or the Washington state Department of Health to learn when the private septic system is repaired and operating properly—at that time DEL would allow the early learning program to reopen. | | | | |

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| **Cleaning and Sanitation – Pest control** | | |
| **Family Home WAC** | **Center WAC** | **Proposed WAC** | **Satisfactory/Minor/Major revisions; Concerns; Suggested Alternate Language** | **Conflicts with ECEAP, Head Start, Schools District Standards and Practices** | |
| WAC 170-296A-3950  When pests are present in the licensed space, the licensee must:  (1) Take action to remove or eliminate pests; and  (2)(a) Where possible, use nonchemical methods of control instead of chemical controls; or  (b) If chemical pesticides are used, the licensee must:  (i) Not spray pesticides when children are present. Wipe down surfaces that have been sprayed and air out rooms before allowing children to use sprayed areas;  (ii) Place and store rodent poison or insect baits inaccessible to children; and  (iii) Post a notice visible to parents and guardians of children in care forty-eight hours in advance of the application of pesticides, except when pesticides must be used to control pests that may pose an immediate risk to children's health or safety. | WAC 170-295-5160  (1) To use pesticides, you must comply with licensing requirements of chapter [17.21](http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=17.21) RCW (The Pesticide Application Act) which requires you to:  (a) Establish a policy on the use of pesticides that includes your posting and notification requirements;  (b) Provide to parents a written copy of your pesticide policies that includes your posting and notification requirements annually or on enrollment;  (c) Notify parents, guardians, and any other interested parties forty-eight hours in advance of the application of pesticides; and  (d) Require the pesticide applicator to provide a copy of the records required within twenty-four hours of when the pesticide is applied.  (2) Your notification must include a heading stating "Notice: Pesticide Application and…" at a minimum must state the:  (a) Product name of the pesticide being used;  (b) Intended date and time of application;  (c) Location where the pesticide will be applied;  (d) Pest to be controlled; and  (e) Name and number of a contact person at the facility.  (3) To notify people that a pesticide has been used, you must place a marker at each primary point of entry to the center grounds. The marker must be:  (a) A minimum of four inches by five inches;  (b) Printed in colors contrasting to the background; and  (c) Left in place for at least twenty-four hours following the pesticide application or longer if a longer restricted period is stated on the label.  (4) The marker must include:  (a) A headline that states "This landscape has recently been sprayed or treated with pesticides";  (b) Who has treated the landscape; and  (c) Who to call for more information. | **170-300-0255**  **Pest control.**   1. An early learning program must keep premises free from pests such as insects, mice, rats, fleas, and cockroaches. Weight #7 2. An early learning provider must prevent or control pests in or around the premises by:    1. Keeping garbage cans covered except for those containing only paper;    2. Maintaining properly fitting screens in good condition for all exterior doors and windows when in use;    3. Properly sealing and storing food; and    4. Keeping floors and other areas free from crumbs and food debris. Weight #6 3. An early learning provider must remove and eliminate pests discovered on the premises, and take steps to prevent future pests. A provider must have policies in place that use an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program to reduce the risk of chemical exposure to children in care. IPMs must be an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common sense practices and applies pesticide as a last resort. IPMs must include: 4. **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. 5. **Inspection**. Indoor and outdoor areas in and around the premises must be inspected for evidence of pests. A provider must document the date and location if evidence is found. 6. **Identification.** Pests found on the premises must be identified and documented so the pest may be properly removed or exterminated. 7. **Management.** A provider must document steps taken to remove or exterminate the pests if found on the premises. Weight #6 8. At enrollment, and annually thereafter, a written copy of the early learning program’s pesticide policies must be given to the parents or guardians of enrolled children. Pesticide policies must require postings on the child care premises and written notice to parents or guardians when:    1. Evidence of pests on the premises is discovered; and    2. The early learning program plans to use pesticides or other approved chemicals to eliminate pests.   Weight #5   1. An early learning provider must use, apply, or implement the least hazardous or toxic method of pest management available. If using chemical pesticides: 2. The individual applying the chemical pesticide must read and follow all directions on the pesticide’s product label. 3. Chemical pesticides must not be used, applied, or disbursed when enrolled children are present. 4. Before children may occupy and use areas treated with pesticides, surfaces that may have come into contact with pesticides must be cleaned and rinsed, and rooms where the pesticide was used must be sufficiently ventilated pursuant to the pesticide manufacturer’s instructions. 5. Pest baits, poison, traps, and other chemicals or pesticides must be inaccessible to children. 6. In addition, a center early learning provider must:   Comply with the Washington State Department of Agriculture’s guide for *Pesticide Use at Public Schools (K-12) and Licensed Day Care Centers,* as now or hereafter amended; and  Post a notice to parents or guardians and staff 48 hours before a chemical pesticide is used, applied, or disbursed on the licensed premises, pursuant to RCW 43.215.220 and 17.21.415 as now or hereafter amended. The notice must include:   * + 1. The product name of the pesticide to be applied;     2. The intended date and time of application;     3. The location to which the pesticide is to be applied;     4. The pest to be controlled; and     5. The name and phone number of a contact person at the premises coordinating the pesticide use. Weight #6 |  |  | |
| **Justification:**  The proposed regulation, 170-300-0255 Pest control, there are X changes proposed: 1) mandatory strategies for pest control including coverage of garbage cans except for those with paper only; maintenance of screens on exterior doors and windows; properly sealing and storing food; and keeping floors and area free from food debris; 2) having an integrated pest management program; 3) using the least hazardous pest management approach available, including posting prior to use.  *Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition* STANDARD 5.2.7.3: Containment of Garbage states “Waste containers should be kept covered with tight-fitting lids or covers when stored.” Screens are addressed at STANDARD 5.1.3.3: Screens for Ventilation Openings, which says “All openings used for ventilation should be screened against insect entry.” Standard 4.9 and its multiple sub-parts extensively address food storage and food safety, and form the basis for this proposal. Standard 5.3.1.4: Surfaces of Equipment, Furniture, Toys, and Play Materials addresses the issue of floors, stating “Walls, ceilings, floors, furnishings, equipment, and other surfaces should be suitable to the location and the users. They should be maintained in good repair, free from visible soil and in a clean condition.”  *Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition* Standard 5.2.8.1: Integrated Pest Management provides for the adoption of an integrated pest management program. With regard to the third change, the standard supports notification, stating “Notification should be given to parents/guardians and staff before using pesticides, to determine if any child or staff member is sensitive to the product.” In addition, the standard says “Warning Signs: Child care facilities must post warning signs at each area where pesticides will be applied. These signs must be posted forty-eight hours before and seventy-two hours after applications and should be sufficient to restrict uninformed access to treated areas.” Throughout the standard the emphasis is on the least hazardous approach possible, as noted in the proposed regulation. | | | | |

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| **Cleaning and Sanitation – Storage of maintenance and janitorial supplies** | | |
| **Family Home WAC** | **Center WAC** | **Proposed WAC** | **Satisfactory/Minor/Major revisions; Concerns; Suggested Alternate Language** | **Conflicts with ECEAP, Head Start, Schools District Standards and Practices** | |
| WAC 170-296A-4100-(1)(a)(b); (2)(b)(c)(f)(g)(h)(i)  (1) The licensee must:  (a) Store poisons inaccessible to children and where poisons will not contaminate food.  (b) If poisons are not in the original container, clearly label the container with the name of the product and the words "poison" or "toxic."  (2) The following describes chemicals and other substances that must be stored inaccessible to children  (b) Sanitizers and disinfectants;  (c) Household cleaners and detergents;  (f) Ice melt products;  (g) Pool chemicals;  (h) Pesticides or insecticides;  (i) Fuels, oil, lighter fluid, or solvents; | WAC 170-295-5060  (1) You must provide safe storage for flammable and combustible liquids and chemicals used for maintenance purposes and operation of equipment. They must be in a location designed to prevent child access at all times. The liquids and chemicals must be:  (a) Stored in original containers or in department approved safety containers that identify contents;  (b) Stored to comply with fire safety regulations adopted by the state fire marshal's office; and  (c) Ventilated either by mechanical ventilation to the outdoors or through a window that opens on the exterior wall.  (2) Your janitorial or housekeeping storage must have:  (a) Floor surfaces that are moisture impervious and easily cleanable;  (b) A designated utility or service sink for disposing of wastewater; and  (c) A place for mop storage that is ventilated to the outside. | **170-300-0260**  **Storage of maintenance and janitorial supplies.**   1. An early learning provider must ensure all poisonous or dangerous substances including, but not limited to, fuels, solvents, oils, detergents, sanitizing products, and disinfectants are stored:    1. In a location that is inaccessible to children;    2. Separate and apart from food preparation areas, food items, and food supplies;    3. In their original containers or clearly labeled with the name of the product if not in the original container; and    4. In compliance with the manufacturer’s directions including not storing products near heat sources. Weight #7 2. Storage areas and storage rooms must:    1. Be inaccessible to children;    2. Have locking doors or other methods to prevent child access;    3. Have moisture resistant and easily cleanable floors;    4. Have shielded or shatter-resistant lighting;    5. 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    6. Be kept clean and sanitary. Weight #7 3. Storage areas and rooms that contain chemicals, utility sinks, or wet mops must be ventilated to the outdoors or exterior window or mechanical ventilation. Weight #6 4. Maintenance and janitorial supplies and equipment must be stored in a location that is inaccessible to children including, but not limited to: tools, saws, power tools, lawn mowers, mops, brooms, toilet plungers, toilet brushes, and vacuums. Weight #7 |  |  | |
| **Justification:**  The proposed regulation 170-300-0260 Storage of maintenance and janitorial supplies suggests three changes: 1) use of manufacturing instructions for poisonous substances, including storage near heat; 2) use of a designated janitorial sink or an alternative method for disposing of wastewater; and 3) ventilation for storage areas that contain chemicals, utility sinks or wet mops, whether mechanical or exterior window. STANDARD 5.2.9.1: Use and Storage of Toxic Substances provides that “The following items should be used as recommended by the manufacturer and should be stored in the original labeled containers:….toxic materials,” consistent with this proposal.  The second issue of a designated sink or alternative wastewater disposal method is addressed in *Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition* at STANDARD 5.4.1.12: Mop Sinks, which says “Centers with more than thirty children should have a mop sink. Large and small family child care homes should have a means of obtaining clean water for mopping and disposing of it in a toilet or in a sink used only for such purposes. RATIONALE: Handwashing and food preparation sinks must not be contaminated by wastewater. Contamination of hands, toys, and equipment in the room plays a role in the transmission of diseases in child care settings (1,2). COMMENTS: Mop sinks are installed on the floor, similar to a shower pan, and are usually located in janitor’s closets or laundry facilities.”  DEL is proposing to have a standard of a sink and to permit an alternative, regardless of children served, if a sink is not available.  Ventilation for storage areas is addressed in *Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition* at STANDARD 5.7.0.6: Storage Area Maintenance and Ventilation which says, Storage areas should have appropriate lighting and be kept clean. If the area is a storage room, the area should be mechanically ventilated to the outdoors when chemicals or a janitorial sink are present,” which is the basis for the proposed change. | | | | |

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| **Sleep and Rest – Sleep, rest, and equipment** | | |
| **Family Home WAC** | **Center WAC** | **Proposed WAC** | **Satisfactory/Minor/Major revisions; Concerns; Suggested Alternate Language** | **Conflicts with ECEAP, Head Start, Schools District Standards and Practices** | |
| WAC 170-296A-3725 Where children may sleep  (1) The licensee must provide mats, cots, or other sleeping equipment long enough and wide enough for the size of the child.  (2) The licensee must never place the children directly on the floor to sleep.  (3) When children are sleeping there must be enough space between children to give staff access to each child.  WAC 170-296A-3750 Mats, cots and other sleeping equipment  (1) The licensee must provide mats, cots, or other approved sleeping equipment that are made of material that can be cleaned and sanitized as provided in WAC [170-296A-0010](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=170-296A-0010).  (2) Mats, cots, or other sleeping equipment must be in good repair, not torn or with holes or repaired with tape.  (3) A sleeping mat must be at least one inch thick.  (4) Mats, cots, or other sleeping equipment must be cleaned, sanitized, and air dried:  (a) At least once a week or as needed if used by one child; or  (b) Between each use if used by different children.  (5) When in use, mats, cots, or other sleeping equipment must be arranged to allow the licensee or staff to access the children.  (6) Mats, cots, and other sleeping equipment must be stored so that the sleeping surfaces are not touching each other, unless they are cleaned and sanitized after each use.  WAC 170-296A-3775 Bedding  Each child's bedding, including sleeping bags and slumber bags, must:  (1) Meet the child's developmental needs;  (2) Consist of a clean sheet or blanket to cover the sleeping surface;  (3) Include a waterproof moisture barrier under the sheet or blanket;  (4) Have a clean, suitable cover for the child; children must not nap directly on the waterproof moisture barrier or the floor;  (5) Be laundered weekly or more often if soiled or used by different children; and  (6) Be stored separately from bedding used by another child.  WAC 170-296A-3825 Loft style and bunk beds  The licensee must not allow children less than six years of age to use:  (1) Loft style beds; or  (2) Upper bunks of bunk beds.  WAC 170-296A-6800  Rest periods  (1) The licensee must offer a daily supervised rest period for children.  (2) The supervised rest period must be:  (a) Offered to all children five years of age and younger who remain in care more than six hours per day; and  (b) Offered to any child who shows a need for rest.  (3) The licensee must:  (a) Not force a child to sleep;  (b) Provide quiet activities for the children who do not require rest. These activities must be offered with a minimum of disruption to sleeping children;  (c) Communicate with the parent or guardian about the child's sleep needs and patterns; and  (d) Allow infants and toddlers to follow individual sleep patterns.  (4) See WAC [170-296A-3725](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=170-296A-3725) through [170-296A-3825](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=170-296A-3825) regarding sleeping equipment and bedding requirements. | WAC 170-295-2050 Must we provide rest periods?  You must:  (1) Offer a supervised rest period to the child who is:  (a) Five years of age or younger and in care for more than six hours; or  (b) Showing a need for rest.  (2) Allow a child twenty-nine months of age or younger to follow an individual sleep schedule, and plan alternative quiet activities for the child who does not need rest.  WAC 170-295-5120 What kind of sleep and nap equipment do I need for children not in cribs, bassinets, infant beds or playpens?  Sleeping and nap equipment must be available for each toddler and preschool age child not using a crib and remaining in care for at least six hours and any other child requiring a nap or rest period.  (1) You must:  (a) Provide a separate, firm and waterproof mat or mattress, cot or bed for each child or have a system for cleaning the equipment between children;  (b) Place mats or cots at least thirty inches apart at the sides and arrange children head to toe or toe to toe;  (c) Be sure that the bedding consists of a clean sheet or cover for the sleeping surface and a clean blanket or suitable cover for the child;  (d) Launder the bedding weekly or more often if necessary and between uses by different children;  (e) Store each child's bedding separately from bedding used by other children. Once the bedding has been used, it is considered dirty. One child's bedding cannot touch another child's bedding during storage;  (f) Keep mats clean and in good repair. Once a mat is torn it is not cleanable. You may not use duct tape or fabric to repair sleeping mats or mattresses; and  (g) Use only cots with a surface that can be cleaned with a detergent solution, disinfected and allowed to air dry.  (2) You may not use the upper bunk of a bunk bed for children under six years of age. | **170-300-0265**  **Sleep, rest, and equipment.**   1. An early learning provider must offer a supervised daily rest period for children preschool age and younger who remain in care more than six hours per day, or who show a need for rest. Weight #5      1. An early learning provider must provide quiet activities for children who do not require rest. Quiet activities must be minimally disruptive to sleeping children. Weight #4 2. An early learning provider must communicate a child’s sleep needs and patterns with that child’s parent or guardian. Weight #4 3. An early learning provider must not place children directly on the floor to rest or sleep. Weight #5 4. For children not using cribs or playpens, an early learning provider must provide developmentally appropriate mats, cots, or other sleep equipment made of water resistant material that can be cleaned and sanitized. Weight #5 5. Mats, cots, and other sleep equipment used in an early learning program must be: 6. In good condition, have no tears or holes, and have no repairs with tape; 7. Cleaned, sanitized, and air dried at least once per week or as needed if used by only one child, or after each use if used by more than one child; and 8. Stored so sleeping surfaces are not touching each other unless cleaned and sanitized after each use. Weight #5 9. Floor mats designed for sleeping and mattresses must be at least one inch thick. Weight #4 10. Floor mats must be spaced apart from other floor mats, cots, and mattresses to reduce germ exposure and allow early learning providers access to each child during sleep time as follows: 11. There must be at least 30 inches on each side between each floor mat, cot, or mattress; and 12. Floor mats, cots, and mattresses must be arranged so children are head to toe, or toe to toe. Weight #4      1. Each child’s bedding must:    1. Have a clean sheet or blanket to cover the sleeping surface and a clean blanket for the child that is suitable given the child’s size and room temperature;    2. Be laundered weekly or more often if soiled, or laundered daily if used by more than one child; and    3. Be stored separately from bedding used by another child, unless it is cleaned and sanitized after each use. Weight #5 2. An early learning provider must not allow children less than six years of age to use loft style beds or upper bunks of bunk beds. Weight #6 |  |  | |
| **Justification:**  As part of the Early Start Act alignment, the Department of Early Learning analyzed all existing licensing, both family home and center rules. The issues identified included duplication, inconsistency, dual language learners (DLL), inclusion and equity, and underscored the importance of the connections between policy, practice, and reporting. There was an identified need to have consistent and clear connections in early learning programs in order to best support providers and the children and families that they serve. At the same time, gaps were noted between family home and center rules, many because of more recent revisions to family home rules than center rules. The revisions respect each unique setting but also seek to align center and family home as appropriate. | | | | |

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| **Sleep and Rest – Evening and overnight care** | | |
| **Family Home WAC** | **Center WAC** | **Proposed WAC** | **Satisfactory/Minor/Major revisions; Concerns; Suggested Alternate Language** | **Conflicts with ECEAP, Head Start, Schools District Standards and Practices** | |
| WAC 170-296A-3800 Overnight sleeping  If the licensee is approved by the department to provide overnight care, the licensee must provide every child a bed or other sleeping equipment to sleep that:  (1) Is safe and in good condition;  (2) Is waterproof or washable; and  (3) Meets the child's developmental needs.  WAC 170-296A-3825 Loft style and bunk beds  The licensee must not allow children less than six years of age to use:  (1) Loft style beds; or  (2) Upper bunks of bunk beds.  170-296A-4425  Night latches, deadbolts and security chains  When overnight care is provided, the licensee must have a department approved safety plan in place before using any of the following on an exit door that is not used as an emergency exit:  (1) Night latches;  (2) Deadbolts; or  (3) Security chains.  170-296A-6850  Overnight care  The licensee must be approved by the department to provide overnight care. If the licensee provides overnight child care:  (1) The licensee or primary staff person must be awake until all children in care are asleep;  (2) The licensee or a primary staff person must be on the same level of the home as the children in care;  (3) The licensee or primary staff person must maintain required staff-to-child ratios; and  (4) The daily schedule under WAC [170-296A-6550](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=170-296A-6550) must include evening or overnight care.  See WAC [170-296A-3725](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=170-296A-3725) through [170-296A-3825](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=170-296A-3825) regarding sleeping equipment and bedding requirements.  See WAC [170-296A-4400](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=170-296A-4400) and [170-296A-4425](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=170-296A-4425) regarding door alarms, night latches, deadbolts, and security chains. | WAC 170-295-2060 What are the requirements for evening and nighttime care?  In addition to meeting the other requirements of chapter [170-295](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=170-295) WAC, if you offer child care during evening and nighttime hours, you must:  (1) Adapt the program, equipment, and staffing pattern to meet the physical and emotional needs of the child away from home at night such as:  (a) In centers operating past midnight, you must provide for each child a crib, mat or cot, or mattress pad, that is easily sanitized;  (b) Make arrangements for bathing as need  (c) Make arrangements for personal hygiene including tooth brushing;  (d) Have individual bedding appropriate for overnight sleeping; and  (e) Have separate dressing and sleeping areas for boys and girls ages six years and older or younger children demonstrating a need for privacy.  (2) Maintain the same staff-to-child ratio that is in effect during daytime care;  (3) Keep the child within continuous visual and auditory range at all times;  (4) Ensure that the staff in charge during evening and nighttime hours meets the requirements of a lead teacher; and  (5) Ensure all staff attending to children in care are awake. | **170-300-0270**  **Evening and overnight care.**  An early learning provider must be approved by the department to provide evening and overnight care between eight o’clock at night and six o’clock in the morning. Weight #6  If approved by the department to provide overnight care, an early learning provider must provide every child a bed or other sleep equipment that:   1. Is safe and in good working condition; 2. Is made of moisture resistant material that can be cleaned and sanitized; 3. Meets the child’s developmental needs; and 4. Is stored so sleeping surfaces are not touching each other unless cleaned and sanitized after each use.   Weight #5  Each child’s bedding must:   1. Have a clean sheet or blanket to cover the sleeping surface and a clean cover for the child; 2. Be laundered weekly or more often if soiled. Bedding must be laundered daily if used by different children; 3. Be stored separately from bedding used by another child, unless it is cleaned and sanitized after each use.   Weight #5  An early learning provider must:   1. Keep children in continuous sight and hearing range at all times while they are awake, except where children demonstrate the need for privacy to change clothes prior to sleeping and can safely do so; 2. Maintain required staff-to-child ratios; and 3. Have department approval prior to using night latches, deadbolts, or security chains. Weight #6 4. An early learning provider must ensure all program staff providing care for children remain awake when supervising children, regardless if children are asleep or awake. Weight #6 5. An early learning provider must remain in hearing range of children while they are asleep.   Weight #7 |  |  | |
| **Justification:**  Proposed regulation 170-300-0270 Evening and overnight care puts forward the following changes: 1) departmental approval is required to offer services between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.; 2) overnight care providers must provide a bed or departmental approved alternative; 3) requires ongoing supervision (sight and sound) unless privacy is needed for changing clothes for bedtime and 4) specifically requires ongoing supervision (sound) while children are sleeping.  In keeping with the need for a specific approach to evening/overnight care, as articulated by *Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition* Standard 9.2.3.13: Plans for Evening and Nighttime Child Care, “Facilities that provide evening and nighttime care should have plans for such care that include the supervision of sleeping children,” DEL has determined that permission is needed prior to providing these services.  *Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition* Standard 5.4.5.1: Sleeping Equipment and Supplies Facilities states that there should be “an individual crib, cot, sleeping bag, bed, mat, or pad that has not been recalled for each child who spends more than four hours a day at the facility.” Using this standard, DEL is specifying that children in overnight care have a bed (currently in the rule) or an approved alternative.  The final two proposed revisions are intended to clarify the ongoing need for supervision of children at all times, including while they are sleeping. *Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition* STANDARD 2.2.0.1: Methods of Supervision of Children, which states “Caregivers/teachers should directly supervise infants, toddlers, and preschoolers by sight and hearing at all times, even when the children are going to sleep, napping or sleeping, are beginning to wake up, or are indoors or outdoors.”  Proposed WAC 170-300-0270 requires center and family home early learning providers that elect to offer evening and overnight care to provide adequate sleeping equipment and materials for enrolled children. This proposed rule also requires providers to properly staff and actively supervise enrolled children at nighttime even if the child is sleeping. The costs to comply with this requirement do not disproportionately affect small businesses because all child care businesses in Washington state are small businesses. The cost to comply with this proposed rule may cause providers to make new and different staffing and hiring decisions if the providers elect to offer this service. The costs of compliance for equipment and materials are likely negligible if a provider decides to offer this care because the provider likely already owns the required sleeping material and equipment. The staffing costs are estimated to range from $32,120 to $40,150 per staff member and are due to the factors and assumptions listed in section 3 of this statement including the new, higher minimum wage as passed by Washington state voters. However, these costs are likely to be offset by the price a provider charges parents for overnight care in the same way providers charge for child care services during the daytime. | | | | |

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| **Infant and Toddler – Infant and toddler care** | | |
| **Family Home WAC** | **Center WAC** | **Proposed WAC** | **Satisfactory/Minor/Major revisions; Concerns; Suggested Alternate Language** | **Conflicts with ECEAP, Head Start, Schools District Standards and Practices** | |
| WAC 170-296A-5700  Language states that infants can be in care at “birth”  170-296A-7000  Wheeled baby walkers prohibited  The licensee must not use or allow the use of wheeled baby walkers in the family home child care during operating hours. | WAC 170-295-4010  At what age can I accept infants into care?  You must not accept into care an infant who is less than one month of age.  WAC 170-295-4130  Do I need a nurse consultant?  (1) If you are licensed to care for four or more infants you must have an infant nurse consultant. The nurse consultant's duties will depend upon the needs of the center. We, center management, teachers, and observations/assessments of the nurse consultant can identify the needs.  (2) If you are required to have an infant nurse consultant, you must:  (a) Have a written agreement with a nurse consultant who is a currently licensed registered nurse (RN) who has either worked in pediatrics (care of children) or public health in the past year or has taken or taught classes in pediatric nursing at the college level in the past five years;  (b) Have at least one monthly on-site visit from your nurse consultant when you have infants enrolled (you may skip the monthly visit if no infants are enrolled);  (c) Have the nurse or a designee that meets the requirements of a nurse consultant available by phone as needed; and  (d) Have written notes of the nurse consultant visit on-site that includes topics discussed, areas of concern, date and signature. | **170-300-0275**  **Infant and toddler care.**   * + - 1. An early learning program may care for infants if the department inspects the program space and approves care for infants:          1. Prior to issuing the program its license, or          2. Prior to caring for newborn infants if the program has not previously done so.   Weight #6     * + - 1. An early learning provider must complete the department required Infant Safe Sleep training pursuant to WAC 170-300-0106(8). Weight #7      * + - 1. An early learning provider must not use or allow infants to use wheeled baby walkers. Weight #7       2. A center early learning program licensed to care for four or more infants must employ or contract with an infant nurse consultant. An infant nurse consultant’s duties depend upon the needs of the center early learning program. A center early learning provider and infant nurse consultant may identify the physical and emotional needs of infants through observations and assessments. Weight #5     (5)Employment or contract work between a center early learning program and an infant nurse consultant must include:   * 1. A written agreement with an infant nurse consultant currently licensed as a registered nurse (RN) who has worked in pediatrics (care of children) or public health within the past year, or has taken or taught classes in pediatric nursing at the college level within the past five years;   2. At least one on-site visit from the nurse consultant monthly, if infants are enrolled;   3. A nurse or designee that meets the requirements of a nurse consultant available by phone as needed; and   4. The nurse consultant’s written notes from the on-site visit, which must include topics discussed, areas of concern, date, and signatures of the consultant and a representative from the early learning program.   Weight #5 |  |  | |
| **Justifications:**  As part of the Early Start Act alignment, the Department of Early Learning analyzed all existing licensing, both family home and center rules. The issues identified included duplication, inconsistency, dual language learners (DLL), inclusion and equity, and underscored the importance of the connections between policy, practice, and reporting. There was an identified need to have consistent and clear connections in early learning programs in order to best support providers and the children and families that they serve. At the same time, gaps were noted between family home and center rules, many because of more recent revisions to family home rules than center rules. The revisions respect each unique setting but also seek to align center and family home as appropriate. | | | | |