

Guidelines for Diapering¹

Diapering provides a wonderful opportunity to engage in special individual communication with a child and the entire process should be a positive one. Always maintain a pleasant attitude while changing a child's diaper, never show disgust or scold a child who has had a loose bowel movement.

Having the diapering area sink in the same room as the handwashing sink, close to the handwashing sink and away from where food is being prepared and eaten helps prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

Preparation	<p>Assemble supplies (within reach).....</p> <p>Diapering surface</p> <p>Gloves may be used Reminder: gloves are not a substitute for handwashing and hands must be washed after removing gloves</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ clean diaper ✓ wipes or moistened paper towels ✓ gloves, when used ✓ clean clothes & child's own supply of ointment if needed ✓ the diapering surface should be smooth, nonabsorbent, and easy to clean. ✓ gloves should be worn if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ you have open cuts, sores or cracked skin ⇒ if there is visible blood in the feces ⇒ if you are changing the diaper of a child with diarrhea or a known infection that is spread through feces ⇒ if the child has open areas on the skin ✓ pregnant women or women considering pregnancy may want to wear gloves when changing diapers
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¹ Adapted from Diapering Procedure, Minnesota Child Care Health Consultants Group, 8/97

Dirty Phase	Place child on diapering surface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ keep one hand on child entire time ✓ keep others away from diapering area ✓ remove child's clothing, put soiled clothing without rinsing in a plastic bag to give to parent
	Remove soiled diaper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ roll diaper inward; place diaper directly into a waste container (used only for soiled diapers) that has a tight cover, is lined with a disposable plastic trash bag, and is within arm's reach of the diapering changing area
	Cleanse diaper area of child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ see end of tipsheet for more information on the use of cloth diapers ✓ use the child's own disposable wipes ✓ cleanse from front to back and include skin creases using a fresh wipe each time ✓ place wipes in waste container or out of child's kick space/reach
	Remove gloves if used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ place gloves in waste container or out of child's kick space/reach
	Wipe hands with a premoistened disposable wipe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ place wipe in waste container or out of child's kick space/reach

Clean Phase	Put on ointment as directed by parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ use clean glove or swab to apply, then take off and place glove in waste container; each child should have their own supply of ointment
	Diaper and dress child	
	Wash child's and your hands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ return child to activity

Clean Up	Dispose of soiled items	✓ if not already done, put diaper, wipes, or paper towels, changing paper, gloves (if used) and cotton swab (if used) into waste container (refer to end of tipsheet for more information on the use of cloth diapers)
	Clean and disinfect	✓ diapering surface and all equipment or supplies touched. Allow surfaces to air-dry
	Wash hands	✓ thoroughly with soap and warm running water for at least 15 seconds

Communicate	Record	✓ diaper change
	Report	✓ concerns to parent such as unusual color, odor, frequency or consistency of stool, rash, etc.

When Using Cloth Diapers

Diaper Pails

- ✓ Each family should have their own family-labeled diaper pail that is lined with a plastic bag, can be easily cleaned and has a tight fitting lid.
- ✓ The contents of the family-labeled diaper pails are sealed at the end of the day and taken home.
- ✓ At the end of each day, all diaper pails are cleaned with soap and water, disinfected and a new plastic liner placed in the pail.
- ✓ Diaper service pick-ups can occur at the child care. This pick-up service must occur at least twice weekly.
- ✓ Common diaper receptacles for children using the same diaper service can be used as long as pick-up by the diaper service occurs at least twice weekly, the contents are sealed at the end of each day and a new or cleaned and disinfected diaper pail is used each day.

Soiled Diapers

- ✓ Change the outer diaper covering and inner lining together with each diaper change. Don't reuse outer covering till laundered.
- ✓ Place soiled diapers (with or without feces) directly into diaper pail, do not shake out or rinse feces. Urine-soiled and feces-soiled cloth diapers may be stored in the same diaper pail.
- ✓ The child care can be responsible for shaking out feces-soiled diapers if required by the diapering service. This will be done at the end of the day after all the children have left. Rubber gloves should be worn when shaking out diapers and the toilet area disinfected after finished.

