

Laundry Protocol

Head Start Performance Standards

§ 1302.47 (b) (2) (i)

Policy

The Child Development Centers recognize the importance of keeping linen clean and available for use in the classroom to help prevent infection and promote cleanliness in the early childhood setting. Where available, on-site laundry facilities are to be used by staff for program purposes only.

Parents will be asked to bring an extra change of clothing for their children in case of an accident. Each classroom has been provided with 18 cots and families will be asked to provide a blanket for their child for napping. If the family is unable to provide a blanket, the teacher will reach out to the Health Services Supervisor.

Procedure (HCDC & CC only)

- If the center has laundry facilities on site, staff must create and post a weekly laundry schedule near the washer and dryer and in each classroom. If there are no on-site laundry facilities, the Program Area Supervisor must develop a laundry plan. Personal items belonging to children can be sent home for parents to launder. Head Start items must be removed from the classroom or put in a designated area until they are laundered.
- Water temperatures and detergent/disinfectants must meet Health Department guidelines.
- Mat and crib sheets/blankets will be laundered at least weekly, or as needed for spit-ups and soiling and upon change of occupant. Crib and mat sheets will be washed and dried separately from bibs, burp cloths, wash cloths, etc.
- Soiled laundry will be isolated from other laundry, either in plastic bags or waterproof containers, and washed separately.
- Staff will not wash children's diapers, plastic pants, or wraps. These personal items will be sealed in plastic bag for the parent to take home. Personal blankets brought from home will also be sent home weekly or as needed to be laundered.
- Laundry that is contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials will be handled as little as possible, placed/transported in a clearly labeled plastic bag or container, and washed separately. Staff will wear protective gloves when handling contaminated laundry. Children's personal items will be placed in labeled plastic bags with secure ties and picked up by parents.
- Each classroom will have a specific place in their classroom to store clean and dirty sheets that are labeled Laundry.
- Laundry will be **folded** in areas other than where food is stored or prepared.
- Laundry will be **stored** in areas other than where food is stored or prepared.
- Clean sheets should not be stored within reach of children and must be put away immediately.

Laundry Soap:

- Our sheets will be washed in Free and Clear laundry detergent and ingredients are available upon request. Soiled sheets are washed separately. If you have a child who has a specific allergy to any type of laundry detergent, please let your PAS know immediately.

**Community Action Head Start
Washington County, Oregon**

Sanitation Requirements

According to licensing standards, cribs, mats, and cots shall be sanitized with a sanitizing solution daily (as cots touch when stacked), upon a change of occupant or when soiled. If visibly soiled, items must be cleaned prior to sanitizing.

Soiled Cots:

If you have a blanket that has been exposed to bodily fluids, please put this into a plastic garbage bag and send it home with child to be cleaned.

If the cot has been exposed to any type of bodily fluid the cot needs to be cleaned with hot soapy water and Re-juvinal Disinfectant and left to dry.

If the flooring, rug or carpet in the classroom has been exposed to bodily fluids please contact your school's maintenance person for further cleaning instructions.

Proper Storage

According to licensing standards, all clean linen shall be stored in a sanitary manner. Soiled and or clean sheets shall always be inaccessible to children and should not be in or around food prep areas or areas within reach of children.