

Diapering/Handwashing Procedure- for Use with the ERS

1. Before beginning the diapering procedure, clean your hands by using proper hand hygiene (handwashing or use of hand sanitizer according to directions).
2. To minimize contamination, prepare for diapering by getting out all of the supplies needed for the diaper change and placing them near, **but not on**, the diapering surface, for example:
 - Non-porous changing table paper to cover the table from the child's shoulders to beyond the child's feet (in case it becomes soiled and must be folded over to create a clean surface during the change)
 - Enough wipes for the diaper change, including cleaning the child's bottom and wiping the teacher's and child's hands before putting on the clean diaper (wipes must be taken out of their container)
 - Unused diaper and clean clothes, if needed
 - A plastic bag for soiled clothes
 - Disposable gloves (if used)
 - A dab of diaper cream on a disposable paper towel (if used)
3. Place the child on diapering table. Remove clothing to access diaper. If soiled, place clothes into a plastic bag.
4. Open the soiled diaper and leave under the child while the child is cleaned.
5. Use wipes to clean child's bottom from front to back (one wipe per swipe) and throw away with the soiled diaper into a plastic-lined, covered, hands-free trash container.
6. Check for spills on the paper liner, and if needed, fold the paper over to create a clean surface.
7. If gloves are used, they must be discarded at this time.
8. Use a wipe to remove soil from your hands and throw into trash container.
9. Use another wipe to remove soil from child's hands and throw into trash container.
10. Slide the clean diaper under the child, and use a facial or toilet tissue or clean disposable gloves to apply any necessary diaper creams, discarding the tissue or gloves in a plastic-lined, hands-free covered can and redress the child.
11. Wash the child's hands following the proper handwashing procedure- see below (use of hand sanitizer is also acceptable for children 2 and older, if hands are not visibly soiled). Return the child to the play area without touching any other surfaces.
12. Dispose of the disposable paper liner in the plastic-lined, hands-free covered can.
13. Remove any visible soil from the changing surface with a disposable paper towel saturated with water and detergent, and then rinse.
14. Wet the entire changing surface with a disinfectant that is appropriate for the surface material being treated. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use.
15. Clean your hands by using proper hand hygiene (handwashing, or use of hand sanitizer according to directions if hands are not visibly soiled).

Handwashing Procedure:

1. Moisten hands with water and apply liquid soap.
2. Rub hands together away from the flow of water for 20 seconds.
3. Rinse hands free of soap under running water.
4. Dry hands with a clean disposable paper towel or a one-time use cloth towel, or dry thoroughly with an air dryer.
5. If faucets do not shut off automatically, turn faucets off with a disposable paper or single-use cloth towel.*

*According to comments in *Caring for Our Children, 4th edition*, Standard 3.2.2.2, updated May 2019, current handwashing procedure states that water remains on throughout the handwashing process. However, there is little research to prove whether a significant number of germs are transferred between hands and the faucet while performing hand hygiene. Turning off the faucet after wetting and before drying hands saves water for those early care and education programs practicing water conservation.

Information taken from *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 4th edition*. American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, and National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Childcare and Early Education (2019).