

## INFANT AND TODDLER CARE - CHILD CARE CENTERS

**Good beginnings last a lifetime.** Kansas child care laws and regulations are designed to reduce the predictable risk of harm to children. These guidelines provide requirements for infant/toddler units. The following is not inclusive of all requirements. The facility is responsible for reviewing and complying with all regulations.

### General Requirements:

- Infant and toddler units are to be conducted on the **ground floor only** as stated in K.A.R. 28-4-440(a).
- Infant and toddler units are to be separate from units for older children as stated in K.A.R. 28-4-440(b).
- An outdoor play area with equipment appropriate for infants and toddlers is required.
- Thirty-five square feet of floor space per child is required for children's activities as stated in K.A.R. 28-4-423(a)(2).
- **The facility (unit) and program must be designed so that staff do not leave children unsupervised while changing diapers, washing hands, potty training, feeding children, attending to their own needs, etc.**

### Toileting/Diapering:

- A changing table shall be provided for each unit of infants and each unit of toddlers as stated in K.A.R. 28-4-440(q)(4).
- Hand washing facilities are to be in or adjacent to the diaper-changing area as stated in K.A.R. 28-4-440(q)(3).
- There shall be one potty chair or child-sized toilet for every five toddlers as stated in K.A.R. 28-4-440(q)(9).

**Staffing Requirements:** Staff persons caring for infants and toddlers are required to meet the minimum requirements as stated in K.A.R. 28-4-440(n). The required staff-child ratio is always to be maintained. No child is to be left unsupervised as stated in K.A.R. 28-4-428(a)(3).

### Infant Sleep Area:

- A sleeping area separate from the play area shall be provided for infants as stated in K.A.R. 28-4-440(d).
- The required space for an infant sleep area is NOT included in the square footage as space available for children's activities. The sleep area space required is **in addition to the required play space**.
- The sleep area must contain enough space for a crib or playpen for each infant in care at any one time (K.A.R. 28-4-440(e)) with two feet of space in all directions (K.A.R. 28-4-436(b)(5)) except when bordering an exterior wall.
- Stacking cribs, cribs with water mattresses or bassinets are not permitted (K.A.R. 28-4-440(f)(1)).
- Sleep and play area separation:
  - The infant sleep area shall be separated from the active area by a barrier. A barrier should not exceed three feet in height.
  - The height of the barrier separating the play area from the sleep area must not impair the visual supervision of all areas of the unit by staff. Infants need to be within sight and hearing of caregivers at all times, including when napping.
  - The barrier should be firmly anchored or constructed in a way to prevent tipping or climbing.

**Child Care Practices to Consider:** Bottle preparation area, storage of prepared formula, breast milk or milk cups, storage of diapering supplies, etc. Please contact the local childcare surveyor for any questions or concerns regarding compliance.