

.26 MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

A. Activities. The provider shall make available to the children:

- (1) Only activity materials that are developmentally appropriate, in good repair, clean, nontoxic, and free from hazards including lead paint; and**
- (2) A variety and quantity of materials and equipment for indoor and outdoor activities adequate to implement the requirements of Regulation .25 of this chapter.**

INTENT: There must be enough safe, appropriate materials and equipment to allow all children in care to participate in program activities

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Adequate, appropriate, safe, clean materials"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA:

- There are enough materials and equipment to allow each child to participate in both indoor and outdoor activities.
- All materials and equipment are appropriate to the activities and the children, and do not present any safety or health risk.

ASSESSMENT METHOD:

- Observation of the materials and equipment used by the children during activities. If observation is not possible, discussion to determine which materials and equipment items are used.
- Examination of activity items to assess safety and appropriateness.

Notes:

- The following are some safety hazards often found in activity materials and equipment:
 - Lead paint
 - Sharp edges or points
 - Splinters
 - Loose or missing screws or bolts,
 - Frayed ropes or bindings,
 - Rust
 - Small removable pieces that may be ingested and cause choking
 - Strings or cords which can catch in equipment
- Items requiring assembly or installation before use must be assembled or installed properly (in accordance with manufacturer instructions)
- Because of the risk of injury due to accident, the use of baby walkers is strongly discouraged.
- For some examples of appropriate materials and equipment, see "[Developmental Characteristics](#)."

B. Rest Furnishings.

- (1) The home shall have clean linen and adequate furnishings for rest periods that are comfortable, durable, safe, and appropriate for ages of children in care.**
- (2) Each child shall have an individual place to rest that is not used by any other child or resident unless the linens are changed between users.**
- (3) For each child younger than 2 years old approved for care in the home, the provider shall provide a crib, portacrib, or playpen that meets the standards of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.**
- (4) Except as provided in §B(5) of this regulation, a crib, portacrib, or playpen shall be used as the resting place for each child younger than 2 years old.**
- (5) If the provider and the child's parent agree in writing that the child is developmentally ready, a cot, bed, or mat may be used as the resting place for a child who is younger than 2 years old.**
- (6) Unless the need for a positioning device that restricts a child's movement while**

the child is resting is specified in writing by the child's physician, an object or device, including but not limited to a strap, wedge, or roll, that restricts movement may not be used with a child in a crib, portacrib, playpen, cot, bed, mat, or other rest furnishing.

- (7) The provider may not use soft bedding items, including but not limited to pillows, quilts, comforters, and crib bumpers, as rest furnishings for a child who is younger than 18 months old.**
- (8) If overnight care is approved by the Office, the provider shall ensure that:**
- (a) Each child in overnight care has safe, appropriate sleep furnishings; and**
 - (b) All overnight sleeping arrangements are age appropriate and gender-appropriate as determined by the provider and the parent.**

INTENT:

- All rest furnishings used by children in care must be safe, clean, and age-appropriate. Cribs/portacribs/playpens must meet national safety standards.
- Unauthorized use of a device that restricts a child's movement during sleep is a potential safety hazard for the child.
- Soft bedding items are a potential safety hazard for very young children.
- Overnight care must have prior approval of the Regional Office and must be provided as approved.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEMS:

"Clean, safe, adequate, rest furnishings"
"Individual places to rest"
"Cribs/portacribs/playpens as required"
"No soft bedding for under 18 months"
"No unauthorized use of restrictive devices"
"Overnight arrangements are appropriate"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA:

- There is enough rest equipment to provide an individual resting place for each child.
- Each rest equipment item is safe, comfortable, and appropriate to the child(ren) using it.
- All bedding and bed linens are clean.
- For each child younger than 2 years old approved for care, there is a crib, portacrib, or playpen that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) standards (see bulleted item under Notes below regarding presence of cribs, etc.).
- For each child younger than 2 years old using a cot, bed, or mat, there is in the child's file a written agreement, signed by the provider and the parent, that the child is developmentally ready for that use (see bulleted item under Notes below regarding sofas and sofa-beds).
- A movement-restricting positioning device is not used with any resting child without written authorization from the child's physician.
- Soft bedding items are not used with any child younger than 18 months old (see bulleted item under Notes below regarding soft bedding).
- If you provide overnight care:
 - You have been approved by the Regional Office to do so;
 - Care is provided in accordance with your approved written overnight care plan (see Circular Letter 96-06, "Overnight Child Care");
 - There are individual sleep furnishings for each child that are clean, safe, and age-appropriate; and
 - You have documentation showing that you and each child's parent have agreed to the child's sleeping arrangements.

ASSESSMENT METHOD:

- Observation to determine:
 - The number, type, appropriateness, and safety of rest equipment items that are available for children, and
 - Adequacy, suitability, cleanliness, and safety of bedding items and bed linens.
- As appropriate, review of child files to determine the presence of the required

- provider/parent agreement regarding cot/bed/mat use by child(ren) under 2 years old.
- If overnight care is provided, observation or discussion, as appropriate, and review of child files to determine the nature and appropriateness of overnight sleep furnishings and agreement on sleeping arrangements.

Notes:

- A car safety seat or baby swing is not an appropriate rest furnishing for infant napping purposes. Those items are not manufactured for primarily as rest or sleep equipment. If an infant falls asleep while in a swing, or a parent arrives with her infant asleep in a safety seat, you may allow the child to continue sleeping there until waking up if:
 - It is likely that moving the child to appropriate rest equipment will awaken her/him,
 - You monitor the child constantly until she/he awakens, and
 - You intervene immediately if the child shows any discomfort.
 However, you are expected to ensure that appropriate rest equipment is used for the child's next planned rest period.
- Presence of Cribs, etc.: Even if there is a signed agreement that a given under-2 child is ready to use a cot, bed, or mat, you must still have a CPSC-approved crib/portacrib/playpen present at the home for each under-2 child approved for care.
 - If you are approved to care for children under 2 years old, but those children are not present or enrolled at the time a licensing inspection is conducted, the cribs/portacribs/playpens do not need to be set up for use. It is sufficient for the Licensing Specialist to verify that the required number of cribs, etc., are present in your home and available for use, and that they meet CPSC standards. (NOTE: To help make sure your cribs are safe, refer to "[Crib Safety Tips](#)," included in this Manual.)
 - When in use, cribs, portacribs, playpens, and cots should be placed so that an adult can move easily between them to reach children who need individual attention and, especially, to reach children in case of fire or other emergency. These items should be placed at least 3 feet apart if set side by side or 18 inches apart if set end to end.
- Sofas and Sofa-beds: Ordinary sofas may not be used for rest purposes. Sofa-beds may be used, but only for children 2 years old and older and only if opened as beds and covered with appropriate, clean bed linens. If using a sofa-bed, the provider or substitute must take precautions to prevent the child from:
 - Being injured by the folding mechanism, and
 - Slipping down between the mattress and the interior frame of the sofa-bed.
- Soft Bedding: The prohibition on soft bedding extends to any bedding item that may pose a risk of suffocation when used with children who are less than 18 months old. In addition to the items cited at Section B(6) of the regulation, items that may not be used include soft surfaces such as non-firm or saggy mattresses, cushions, sleeping bags, and thick or fluffy blankets. A thin blanket may be used if it is tucked securely around the mattress and does not cover the infant beyond the infant's chest. (NOTE: For infants, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development has recommended using a sleeper instead of a blanket, with no other covering.)
- **To help reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that infants under the age of 12 months always be placed on their backs to sleep, unless indicated otherwise by their pediatricians. COMAR 07.04.01.24C requires this "back to sleep" placement for sleep. See [Section .24C](#) of this Manual for pertinent requirements and, generally, the supervision of sleeping children.**