

North Carolina Environmental Health Section Guidance

Children's Health and Safety in Emergency Shelters

Emergency shelters play a critical role in supporting the needs of children during times of disruption. By providing a safe and nurturing environment for children, these shelters allow parents and caregivers to focus on addressing immediate challenges.



Safety Protocols

- Establish clear emergency procedures and evacuation plans.
- Implement strict hygiene practices, including regular handwashing and sanitization.
- Enforce strict illness policies to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.
- Ensure all staff members are trained in CPR and basic first aid.



Diapering Facilities

- Designate specific areas for diaper changing with proper supplies.
- Ensure changing tables are sturdy and have safety straps.
- Provide disposable gloves for staff during diaper changes.

Equipment & Toys

- Ensure all equipment and toys meet safety standards and are age-appropriate.
- Regularly inspect for signs of wear and tear and replace as needed.
- Clean and sanitize toys regularly to prevent the spread of germs.
- Store toys in designated areas to prevent clutter and ensure safety.



Food & Bottle Preparation

- Designate a separate area for food and bottle preparation.
- Follow strict guidelines for food handling and storage to prevent contamination.
- Ensure all bottles and utensils are properly sanitized before and after each use.
- Implement allergy awareness protocols and accommodate special diets.



Lactation Station

- Create a private and comfortable space for breastfeeding mothers.
- Ensure the area is clean and sanitized after each use.
- Provide storage for breast milk and proper refrigeration facilities.



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**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
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