Daycare and Nursery Inspections

Nurseries and toddler areas can be enriching for children and serve as convenient programs for parents while they are attending worship services. However, religious organizations that have nurseries and toddler areas onsite must be fully aware of the risks associated with caring for young children. A variety of steps must be taken to minimize those risks with proper safety and security measures. Ultimately, the religious organization must assume full responsibility for the well-being of every child entrusted to the organization.

Any area in the building that is used for a nursery or toddler care should be inspected on a weekly basis to identify potential hazards. Modifications to the area also may be necessary so it provides children with the safest and most secure environment possible.

To inspect a nursery for existing hazards, the following items should be reviewed:

Room Set Up

- Bottle warming
    - Have procedures in place for warming bottles to protect children from burn injuries.
- Diapering areas
    - Keep diapering areas separate from children's play areas.
- Doors
    - Equip doors to closets, hallways, and other rooms with a lock.
- Drapery and blind cords
    - Keep drapery and blind cords out of reach of cribs and children, as they pose strangulation and entanglement hazards.
- Furniture
    - Any dresser, shelves, or similar equipment should be appropriately anchored to the wall to prevent them from accidentally tipping over.
    - Any lower drawers of dressers, file cabinets, or similar furniture should be equipped with appropriate latches to keep children from being able to open them.
- First aid kit
    - Keep a kit in an accessible location;
    - Inventory the kit on a regular basis; and
    - Keep a log of when and who conducted the inventory.
- Hot water temperature
    - Periodically test hot water temperature to ensure that the temperature does not exceed 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

- Keep a log of when and who tested the water.

- Plastic bags
  - Remove all plastic bags from the nursery area.
- Poison hazards
  - Store potentially dangerous products, including medicines and cleaning supplies, in original, labeled containers in locked cabinets.
- Stairways
  - Properly protect access to stairways.

Electrical

- Carbon monoxide detector
  - Install a properly functioning UL listed carbon monoxide detector at a minimum of one per floor.
  - Refer to the manufacturer's recommendations for installation instructions.
- Outlets
  - Install Ground Fault Circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets on any outlets within three feet of a water source.
  - To help prevent electrocution, equip all electrical outlets with outlet covers.
  - Be sure the outlet covers cannot be easily removed by children; and that they are
  - Large enough so that children cannot choke on them.





Outlet Covers

These photos are examples of two types of outlet protectors. The photo on the top is an outlet equipped with a cover plate that also functions as an outlet cover. To plug an item into the outlet, the cover slides to the right.

The photo on the bottom is equipped with plugs that cover the outlet.

Both will protect against electrocution, but the cover on the top also eliminates a potential choking hazard. Children could remove the outlet plugs on the bottom outlet protector example; and if they are too small, the plugs could become a choking hazard.

- Smoke detectors
  - Install a properly functioning UL listed smoke detector in each room; and test the detectors on a regular basis.
  - Keep a log of when and who tested the smoke detectors.

- Television and audiovisual equipment
    - Properly secure television and audiovisual equipment on moveable carts with straps or mounting brackets.



YES



NO

In the left photo, both the television and audiovisual equipment.are securely strapped down.
The photo on the right illustrates similar items that are NOT secured. Note how the equipment's cords in the photo on the right are hanging down where children could easily reach them and possibly pull the equipment off the file cabinet.

- Wires and cords
    - Keep all loose hanging wires and appliance cords out of children's reach.

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