

Basic Health Concerns for Learning Center Classrooms

The following are only guidelines. The program nurse will orient classroom staff to each student's individual needs.

Standard Precautions

- Proper hand washing/use of sanitizing gel
 - Before and after contact with each student
 - After touching contaminated objects
 - After cleaning up spills
 - After glove removal
 - Before and after taking breaks and at the end of each day
 - Disinfect equipment after use
 - Use gloves for all contact with:
 - Blood
 - Mucous membranes/feeding & oral care
 - Non-intact skin
 - Feces
 - Urine
 - Respiratory secretions
 - Diapering/toileting
 - Cleaning equipment/spills
 - Continuously if you have open sores/wounds on your hands
- *** Dispose of gloves after each use. DO NOT REUSE. ****

Seizure Interventions

It should be noted that seizure activity varies from student to student. Specific seizure patterns for each individual student will be conveyed to staff as needed to assist them in recognizing the onset of seizure activity that would then set the following interventions in motion:

- Call the nurse
- Stay with the student
- Not the time seizure activity starts
- Maintain an open airway
- Loosen restrictive clothing (*not* seatbelts)
- Describe what you saw to the nurse (activity/any movements, vocalizations, respiratory status, any color changes in the student).

Skin Observation & Assessing for Infection

- Inspect skin daily (during diaper changes, application and removal of orthotics/braces, routine care) to look for:
 - Open areas/wounds
 - Redness
 - Bruising
 - Color changes
 - Swelling
 - Warm skin
 - Wound drainage

- Signs & symptoms of infection include but are not limited to:
 - Redness or swelling around stomas & IV sites
 - Draining from IV sites
 - Drainage from tube sites
 - Drainage from tracheostomy site
 - Changes in pulmonary secretions
- *** Notify the nurse of your observations & concerns, allowing the nurse to observe first-hand whenever possible. ****

Enteral Tubes ~ G-Tubes, J-Tubes & Associated Equipment

Students have abdominal tubes placed for a variety of reasons. Most frequently, they are used for feeding, when oral feedings are not a sufficient source of nutrition. Most often these tubes are connected externally to a pump by a longer tube, known as the extension set, which needs guarding.

- Students are to be unhooked from tube feedings for all transfers, as instructed by the program nurse, then the feeding is to be resumed as soon as possible.
- Use caution with positioning and transfers to ensure the tube is not dislodged.
- Alert the nurse to any drainage or leakage from the tube ends, or around the abdominal insertion site.
- If the feeding pump begins “beeping,” alert the nurse, or turn off as instructed.
- If the extension set or “tail” is in place, tuck it in, appropriately, to prevent pulling accidents.

Behavior Safety Plans

- Be aware of student-specific plans and follow as directed by classroom teacher or behavior analyst.