
	<b>DHS Early Head Start Program Policy</b>		
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY 1</b>			
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Safe Environments		
<b>REFERENCE</b>	Environmental Health and Safety		
<b>EFFECTIVE</b>	8/1/2016		
<b>Policy Council Approval: 7/26/16</b>	<b>Policy Council Revision: pending</b>	<b>Governing Body Approval: 9/19/16</b>	<b>Governing Body Revision: pending</b>
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**Policy:**

Early Head Start (EHS) Program, Service Providers will maintain indoor/outdoor environments and facilities to ensure they are safe, clean and in quality condition so as to prevent injury to a child. Service Providers will develop a system to maintain safe environments free from pollutants, pests, hazards, and toxins, including lead, that are accessible to children and could endanger children's safety, and to correct issues identified as unsafe and/or hazardous through the monitoring process.

Service Providers will maintain Head Start group sizes and ratios. Service Providers will also be responsible for safety drills, maintenance of first aid kits, training of staff, and accommodation of children with disabilities, food safety, and sanitation. In addition, Service Providers will maintain compliance with Texas Health and Human Services Commission Child Care Regulations requirements.

Service Providers will ensure the maintenance log is current and safety concerns are addressed.

**Performance Standard(s):**

1302.47b(1)(2); 1302.21 (b)