

CHLD 202: Health, Safety, and Nutrition for the Young Child

Childhood Immunizations

Learning Outcomes	3. Explain and identify ways to maintain a safe environment including: identifying hazards and risks; conducting regular health and safety assessments consistent with regulations and quality standards; and taking corrective action when necessary. 8. Provide examples of effective health and immunization record-keeping systems.
DEC Recommended Practices	F3. Professionals fully and appropriately provide relevant information so parents can make informed choices and decisions.
NAEYC Standards	1b. Knowing and understanding the multiple influences on development and learning. 6e. Engaging in informed advocacy for children and the profession.

When you start working with families, there will be differences of opinion that you will need to resolve. “Childhood immunizations” is a topic that can be controversial, since some families may have concerns. It is critical that professionals understand the research on the safety of childhood immunizations to share with families. For this assignment you are to prepare a position statement as the owner of a child care center.

The issue starts with DCFS standards:

LICENSING STANDARDS FOR DAY CARE CENTERS

April 1, 2010 – P.T. 2010.04

Rules 407 – (75)

Subpart G

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Section 407.310 Health Requirements for Children

4) The medical report shall indicate that the child has received the immunizations required by the Illinois Department of Public Health in its rules (77 Ill. Adm. Code 695, Immunization Code). These include poliomyelitis, measles, rubella, mumps, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, haemophilus influenzae B, hepatitis B, and varicella (chickenpox) or provide proof of immunity according to requirements in 77 Ill. Adm. Code 690.50 of the Department of Public Health rules (<http://www.idph.state.il.us>).

Resource: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (2010, December 15). *Licensing standards for day care centers*. Retrieved from <http://www.state.il.us/dcf/docs/407.pdf>

The next piece of information you need is from the Illinois Department of Public Health site referenced in the licensing regulations:

The following vaccinations are recommended by age 2 and can be given in five visits to a doctor or public health clinic:

- *1 vaccination against measles/mumps/rubella (MMR)*
- *4 vaccinations against Hib*
- *3 vaccinations against polio*
- *4 vaccinations against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP)*
- *3 vaccinations against hepatitis B*
- *1 vaccination against varicella*

When should my child receive immunizations?

Immunizations are given at birth, and then at 2, 4, 6 and 12-18 months of age. Booster doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP), polio, and measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) are needed again between ages 4 and 6. The first measles vaccine must be given on or after the first birthday. Check with your doctor or health care provider.

Resource: Illinois Department of Public Health. *Parents' Guide to Childhood Immunizations*. Retrieved from <http://www.idph.state.il.us/about/pgci.htm>

You also need to be aware of what NAEYC requires of accredited sites.

NAEYC Accreditation Criteria for Health Standard 5.A.01

The program maintains current health records for each child:

- *Within six weeks after a child begins the program, and as age-appropriate thereafter, health records document the dates for services to show that the child is current for routine screening tests and immunizations according to the schedule recommended, published in print, and posted on the web sites for the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control of the United States Public Health Service (CDC_USPHS), and the Academy of Family Practice.*
- *When a child is overdue for any routine health services, parents, legal guardians, or both provide evidence of an appointment for those services before the child's entry into the program and as a condition of remaining enrolled in the program, except for any immunization for which parents are using religious exemption.*

Resource: National Association for the Education of Young Children. (2005). *NAEYC early childhood program standards and accreditation criteria: the mark of quality in early childhood education*. Washington DC.

The issue looks fairly straight forward from these sources. The controversy begins when parents decide that immunizations are not safe or not appropriate for their child. You then are faced with a dilemma of denying services to the child or convincing the parent to change their decision.

Your assignment is to research the topic. You need to understand the issue and be able to provide good explanations as to why it is important to immunize children on schedule.

- Find 3 articles in support of immunizing young children and write a statement highlighting the importance of childhood immunizations. Your position statement should be worded so that you would be able to use it to advocate for the children and to provide parents the information they need to make informed decisions.

Submit the paper to your instructor being sure to cite your references.