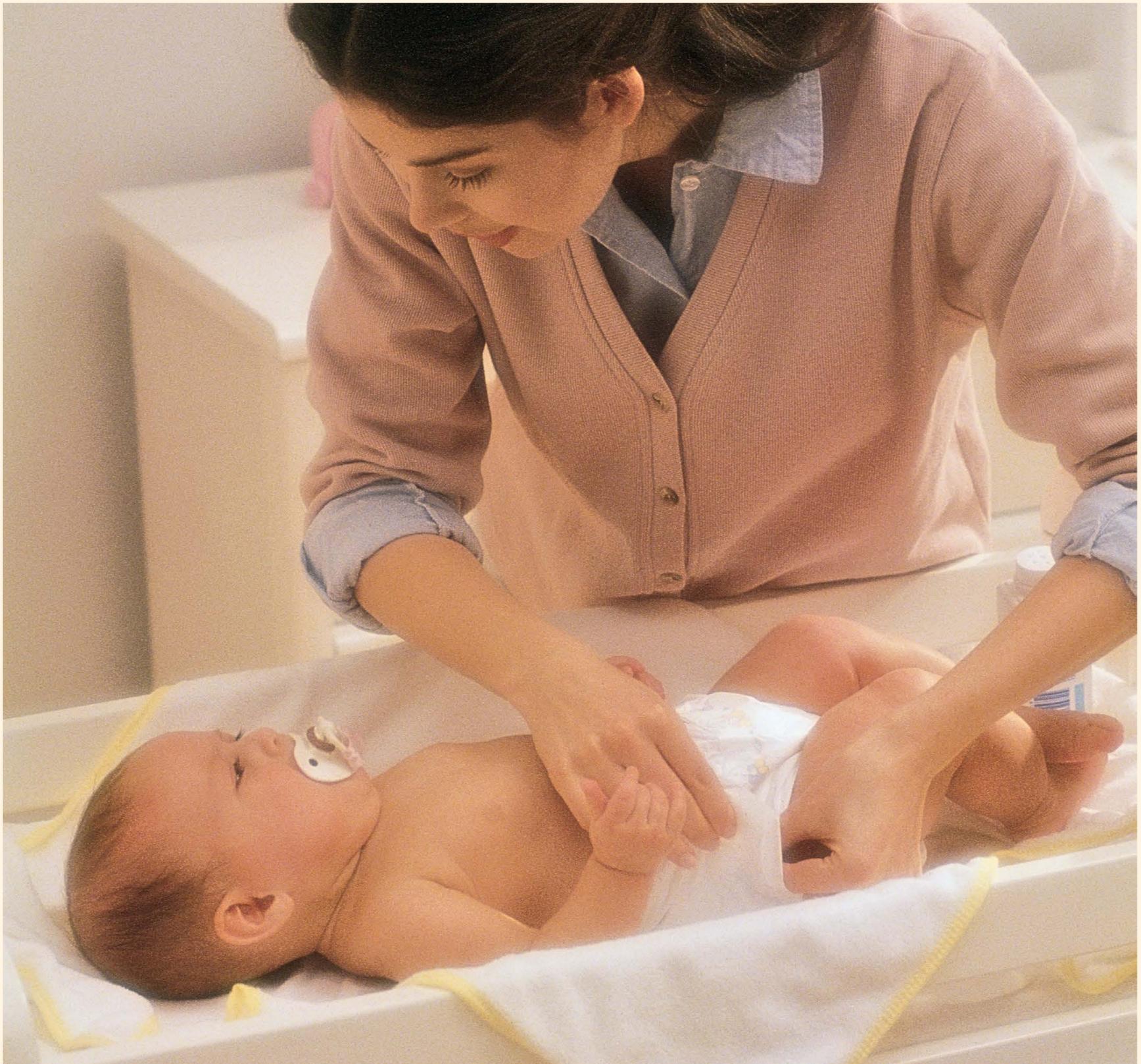




We Skoolhouse



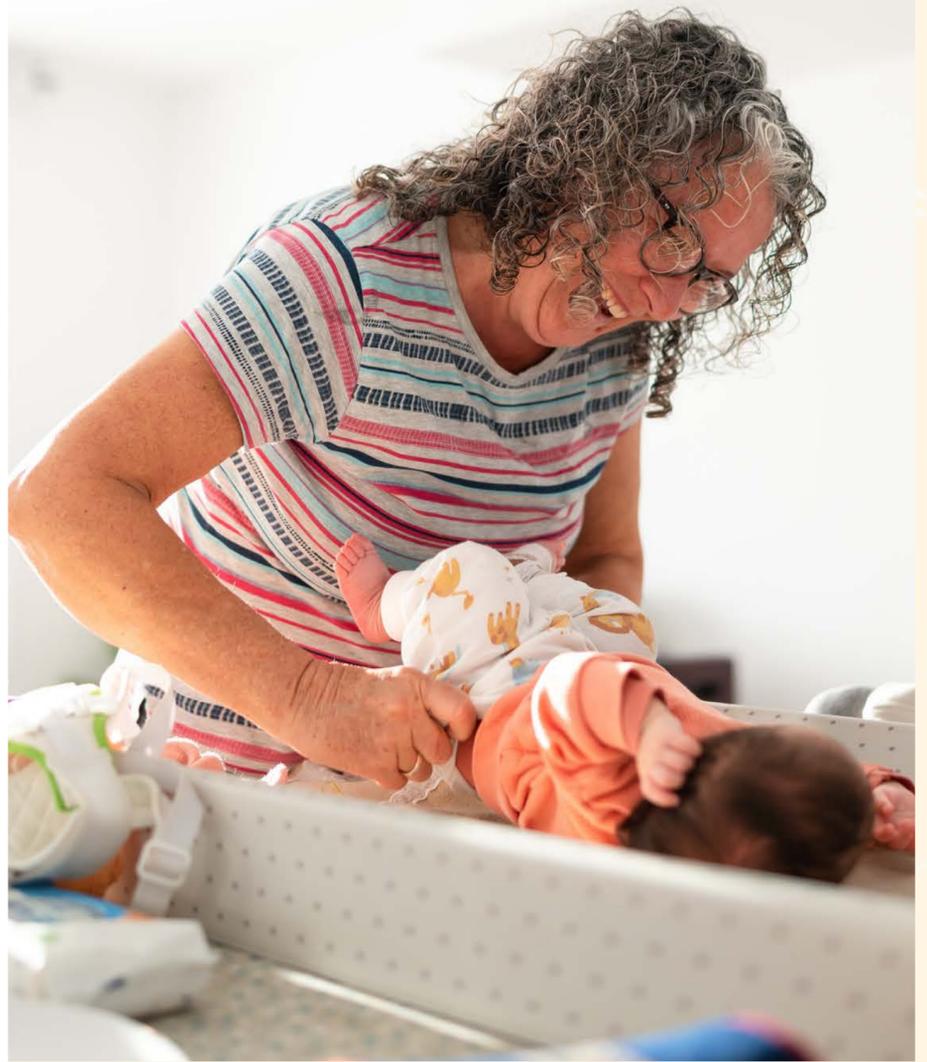
Diapering Guidelines for **The Classroom**



Maximizing Everyday Diaper Changes

Early childhood educators play a pivotal role in the holistic development of young children, not only in their cognitive and physical growth but also in their social-emotional and language development. One often underestimated yet immensely valuable opportunity for fostering these crucial aspects of a child's development is diaper changing.

Beyond its practical necessity, diaper changing presents a unique bonding experience between caregivers and children. Firstly, it's essential to underscore the importance of proper hygiene during this process. Educators should ensure they follow meticulous hygiene protocols (found on the next page), including hand-washing before and after each diaper change, using disposable gloves, and maintaining a clean and safe diaper-changing area to prevent the spread of germs.



Capitalizing on diaper changing as a bonding experience holds several key benefits for social-emotional and language development. First and foremost, it fosters a sense of trust and security between the child and the caregiver. As an educator provides care and comfort during this intimate routine, the child learns to associate their caregiver with warmth and safety. This emotional connection forms the foundation for healthy attachment, which is crucial for a child's emotional well-being.

Diaper changing offers an ideal moment for educators to engage in meaningful one-on-one interactions with the child. They can maintain eye contact, speak softly, and use soothing tones, all of which contribute to the development of language and communication skills.

Encouraging conversation during diaper changes introduces young children to vocabulary, allowing them to absorb and mimic language, which is vital for early language development.

By viewing diaper changing as more than a routine task and instead as an opportunity for bonding and language enrichment, early childhood educators can enhance the overall well-being and development of the children in their care

Diaper Changing for Childcare Setting



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

01 Step 1: Prepare

- Cover the diaper changing surface with disposable liner.
- If you will use diaper cream, dispense it onto a tissue now.
- Bring your supplies (e.g., clean diaper, wipes, diaper cream, gloves, plastic or waterproof bag for soiled clothing, extra clothes) to the diapering area.



02 Step 2: Lift Child

- Greet the child and gently lift them onto the diaper changing surface, supporting the head and neck as needed.



03 Step 3: Eye Contact

- Maintain eye contact throughout the entire diapering interaction.



04 Step 4: Talk to Child

- Describe what is happening in real time as all the steps of the diaper change are being performed.



05 Step 5: Clean Child

- Place the child on diapering surface and unfasten diaper.
- Clean the child's diaper area with disposable wipes. Always wipe front to back!
- Keep soiled diaper/clothing away from any surfaces that cannot be easily cleaned.



06 Step 6: Remove Trash

- Place used wipes in the soiled diaper.
- Discard the soiled diaper and wipes in the trash can.
- Remove and discard gloves, if used.



07 Step 7: Replace Diaper

- Slide a fresh diaper under the child.
- Apply diaper cream, if needed, with a tissue or a freshly gloved finger.
- Fasten the diaper and dress the child.



08 Step 8: Wash Child's Hands

- Wash child's hands with soap and water and place him or her in a safe, supervised area.



09 Step 9: Clean Up

- Remove liner from the changing surface and discard in the trash can.
- Wipe up any visible soil with damp paper towels or a baby wipe.
- Wet the entire surface with disinfectant; make sure you read and follow the directions on the disinfecting spray, fluid or wipe. Choose disinfectant appropriate for the surface material.



10 Step 10: Wash Hands

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.

