



A Dozen COMMON ERRORS in Diaper Changing

- 1. Bringing supply containers to the diaper changing area**
 - Instead of removing the content needed for the single diaper change so the containers become contaminated and spread germs from one child to another.
- 2. Using too little disposable paper under the child**
 - So that if the stool or urine content soils the area outside the diaper itself, there isn't enough paper to fold over and put a clean surface under the child while putting the clean diaper and clothing on the child. The paper should extend from shoulder to beyond child's feet.
- 3. Failing to move clothing out of diaper changing contamination area before the diaper change**
 - So clothing becomes contaminated and carries germs from the diaper contents around the caregiving area.
- 4. If using disposable gloves, failing to remove them after dropping the soiled diaper and soiled wipes into the plastic-lined, hands-free covered can**
- 5. Not using a fresh wipe to wipe the hands of the caregiver and another fresh wipe to wipe the child's hands before moving to the clean steps-putting on the clean diaper and clean clothing**
- 6. Standing children on soiled tables in shoes**
 - So the shoes become contaminated and carry germs across the floors where children crawl and play.
- 7. Not leaving the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered disinfectant in contact with the diaper changing surface for enough time for the disinfectant to reduce the population of germs**
 - Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use See Appendix J: Selecting an Appropriate Sanitizer or Disinfectant, CFOC and ECELS website for discussion of sanitizers and disinfectant solutions.
- 8. Not having a sink within arm's reach of the diaper changing area**
- 9. Not having a separate sink for diapering and food preparation or not disinfecting the sink after using it for diapering if it will be used for other purposes**
- 10. Using a wash basin or some other alternative to a portable sink when a portable sink (using a portable water supply and a sanitary catch system approved by a local public health department) should be purchased**
 - Portable sinks are an alternative to consider when the preferable installation of sinks with plumbing in infant-toddler/twos areas is challenging. A web search for portable sinks will find a number of manufacturers of portable sinks, some with hands-free faucets. A portable sink compared with a newly installed, plumbed sink where no service and sewer lines were available is more cost effective.
 - Do not buy hands-free soap-dispensers. Disposable liquid soap containers are better than the expensive soap refills that the hands-free soap dispensers require.
- 11. Using trash containers that require touching the exterior surface to put trash into the container**
 - Hands-free **covered can** should be tall enough so children cannot get into them.
 - They should be plastic-lined. Currently marketed varieties include step-cans and electric-eye operated lid lifts.
 - Any type of trash container that requires the operator to touch it to use it is not appropriate.
- 12. Not having someone observe each person's diaper changing technique on a regular basis to spot problems that mistakenly creep into routines - to control the risk of infection for everyone**

