10 Actions to Create a Culture of Safety



In a culture of safety, everyone understands they have a role in ensuring their program is a safe place for children. Each of the 10 actions is a science- informed injury prevention strategy that prioritizes children's safety and wellbeing.

1. **Use Data to Make Decisions:** Injury and incident data can help programs understand the who, what, where, when, why, and how of injuries. Staff use data to predict injuries and take action to prevent them.

2. **Actively Supervise:** Staff set up the environment and position themselves so they can continuously observe, count, and listen. They anticipate children's behavior and engage and redirect them when necessary.

3. **Keep Environments Safe and Secure:** A safe environment includes materials and equipment that are free from hazards and are age- and developmentally appropriate. Ongoing observation for changes in the environment, regular inspections, and prompt maintenance when needed, ensure materials and equipment remain in good condition.

4. **Make Playgrounds Safe:** Regularly inspected, wellmaintained, ageappropriate, and actively supervised outdoor play spaces allow children to play, explore the outdoors, and develop healthy habits.

5. **Transport Children Safely:** Programs make sure children get to and from the facility safely, whether they ride the school bus, walk or ride on a bicycle, ride in their family vehicle, or take public transportation.

6. **Report Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect:** All staff understand they are responsible for ensuring the health and safety of the children in their care. Staff know that as mandated reporters, they must report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect.

7. **Prepare for Changes that Affect Safety**: Staff anticipate and prepare for children's reactions to transitions and changes in daily routine. Transitions are a time when there is an even greater need for supervision to ensure children's safety and wellbeing.

8. **Model Safe Behaviors:** Children learn behaviors from adults in their lives. Staff know and follow safety related policies and procedures to help children learn and practice the safe behaviors that they are modeling.

9. **Collaborate with Families About Safety:** Staff include families in safety conversations, so they can look for and take steps to remove hazards, obtain safety devices, and reinforce safety rules at home.

10. **Know Your Children and Families:** Staff understand each child's development, interests, and abilities, so they can create safe learning experiences to help them thrive. Staff also build relationships with families to promote children's healthy development and family wellbeing.

Check out the10 Actions to Create a Culture of Safety resource and videos to learn more!

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