Caring for Our Children:  
National Health and Safety Performance Standards

of futons and ensure that bedding is not shared, thereby reducing transmission of infectious diseases and keeping children out of traffic areas.

TYPE OF FACILITY: Center; Large Family Child Care Home; Small Family Child Care Home

STANDARD 5.148  
BUNK BEDS


RATIONALE: Falls and entrapment between mattress and guardrails, bed structure and wall, or between slats from bunk beds are a well-documented cause of injury in young children.

COMMENTS: Consult the CPSC, the manufacturer’s label, or the consumer safety information provided by the American Furniture Manufacturer’s Association (AFMA) for advice. Contact information for the CPSC, the ASTM, and the AFMA is located in Appendix BB.

TYPE OF FACILITY: Center; Large Family Child Care Home; Small Family Child Care Home

AREAS FOR SPECIAL THERAPIES AND INJURED OR ILL CHILDREN

STANDARD 5.149  
SPACE FOR ILL CHILD

Each facility shall have a separate room or designated area within a room for the temporary or ongoing care of a child who needs to be separated from the group because of injury or illness. This room or area shall be located so the child may be supervised. Toilet and lavatory facilities shall be readily accessible. If the child under care is suspected of having a communicable disease, all equipment the child uses shall be cleaned and sanitized after use. This room or area may be used for other purposes when it is not needed for the separation and care of a child or if the uses do not conflict.

RATIONALE: Children who are injured or ill may need to be separated from other children to provide for rest and to minimize the spread of potential infectious disease. Toilet and lavatory facilities must be readily available to permit frequent handwashing and provide rapid access in the event of vomiting or diarrhea to avoid contaminating the environment. Handwashing sinks should be stationed in each room not only to provide the opportunity to maintain cleanliness but also to permit the caregiver to maintain continuous supervision of the other children in care.

COMMENTS: Separate rooms need not be used for mild illness since children may consider isolation as a form of punishment. For additional information on caring for injured or ill children, see STANDARD 3.072 though STANDARD 3.080; and STANDARD 8.011 and STANDARD 8.012. See STANDARD 3.066, for situations that require separation or isolation.

TYPE OF FACILITY: Center; Large Family Child Care Home; Small Family Child Care Home

STANDARD 5.150  
SPACE FOR THERAPY SERVICES

In addition to accessible classrooms, in facilities where some but fewer than 15 children need occupational or physical therapy and some but fewer than 20 children need individual speech therapy, centers shall provide a quiet, private, accessible area within the child care facility for therapy. No other activities shall take place in this area at the time therapy is being provided.

Family child care homes and facilities integrating children who need therapy services shall receive these services in a space that is separate and private during the time the child is receiving therapy.

American Academy of Pediatrics  
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN

The recommendations in this publication do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or serve as a standard of medical care. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate. Original document included as part of Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care Programs. 2nd ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2002. Also available at http://nrckids.org