

7c3. Active Supervision During Diapering

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Purpose

Diapering is a caregiving routine that must be completed while maintaining **active supervision and required staff-to-child ratios**. Teachers must ensure all children remain supervised at all times and build positive teacher-child interactions.

Before Diapering

1. Check the classroom atmosphere to make sure you can safely change children. If there are other issues happening, then you will call for support using your bathroom supervision assigned staff.
2. Ensure all children are engaged in safe activities or learning centers.
3. Position yourself so you can see and hear the entire classroom.
4. Gather all diapering supplies before beginning. See the Health handbook for diapering hygiene procedures.

Active Supervision Strategies

Teachers continue using active supervision during diapering:

- **Positioning** - Stand or kneel where you can see most of the classroom. Staff position their body facing the classroom near the bathroom entrance.
- **Zoning** - Children remain in designated areas or centers that allow easy supervision.
- **Scanning** - Continue to look around the classroom frequently while diapering.
- **Listening** - Be aware of children's voices, movement, and potential safety concerns.
- **Proximity** - Stay within arm's reach of the child being diapered. Use another changing mat to provide privacy if needed.

Key Supervision Reminders

- Children are **never left unattended**.
- Staff must **remain within the ratio at all times within the classroom**. This means you may step into the bathroom that is in the classroom and support a child. If a child will need a lengthy time to be supported, then you will call the staff listed on bathroom supervision.
- Teachers must maintain **visual and auditory awareness of the entire group**.
- Diapering routines should be done during times when other children can be engaged in activities.

Supporting in the Bathroom:

- When helping a child in the bathroom, leave the door open
- Coach the child through toileting steps.
- Staff may step into the bathroom to support, but if it is for a length of time, then the bathroom supervision process must be used.

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