

Please note: Children should not be given anything to play with while being diapered. Mobiles/toys hung above the diapering surface should be high enough so they cannot be reached by the child. Remove pacifiers during diapering as well. These toys/objects become contaminated and spread germs. If you do allow a child to play with a toy (make sure it is washable), take it away after the diaper has been changed, and disinfect it before allowing a child to play with it again. You can entertain children by talking to them; your face and voice are better than any toy. Diapering is a great opportunity to have one-on-one time with a child.



Step 1: Assemble all of the supplies you need.

Diaper, wipes, paper liner (paper towels, computer paper, waxed paper, etc.) to cover changing surface, disposable gloves, clean clothes (if needed), plastic bag for soiled clothes (if needed), diaper cream (if needed), and facial/toilet tissue for diaper cream. Keep diaper cream out of the child's reach. Take 3 wipes out of the container for every diaper change and leave container open in case you need more (taking wipes out ahead of time prevents contaminating the container).



Step 2: Place the child on the changing surface.

Always keep a hand on the child. Straps on diaper pads/tables are not recommended to use. Remove the child's shoes or socks if the feet cannot be kept out of the diaper. Remove soiled clothes and put in a plastic bag. Do not rinse out clothing. Rinsing out clothing is not allowed in child care.



Step 3: Clean the child's diaper area.

Unfasten the diaper, but leave the soiled diaper under the child. Use disposable wipes to clean from front to back. Even if diaper is only wet, the child's bottom needs to be cleaned with a wipe. Put the soiled wipes in soiled diaper or directly into a **covered, plastic-lined step can.**



Step 4: Remove the soiled diaper.

Fold the soiled surface inward and put soiled diaper into step can. If gloves were used, remove them and put into step can. Whether or not gloves were used, use a disposable wipe to clean your hands and another to clean the child's hands. Dispose of wipes in step can. Check for spills under the child. If there are any, fold the paper over so a fresh paper surface is under the child's bottom.



Step 5: Put on a clean diaper and dress the child.

Slide a fresh diaper under the child. Examine the skin for any cracks, redness, or bleeding. Use a facial/toilet tissue (or clean glove) to apply any diaper ointments/creams. Baby powder is not recommended to use. Dispose of tissue in step can. Fasten the diaper. Re-dress the child. Do not stand the child on the diapering surface; this will contaminate the child's feet.



Step 6: Wash the child's hands and return the child to a supervised

area. It is best to use soap and water at a sink. If not able to wash the infant's hands at a sink because the infant does not have head/neck control, use a disposable wipe to clean the infant's hands.



Step 7: Clean and disinfect the changing surface.

Dispose of paper liner. Spray the changing surface with soap and water. Dry surface with disposable towel. Spray entire changing surface with disinfecting bleach solution or approved disinfectant. If using bleach solution, leave it on for 2 minutes. Dry surface with disposable towel. Put away spray bottle of disinfectant (out of the reach of children). If using a disinfectant other than bleach solution, follow the manufacturer's instructions for required contact time and if surface requires a water rinse after use.



Step 8: Wash hands thoroughly. Record the time the diaper was changed and what was in the diaper. It is also important to record if there is a change in the child's skin condition (ex. redness, rash, etc.).

REMEMBER: Diapers should be checked at least every 2 hours

Source: "Caring for Our Children" National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-of Home Child Care Programs 2nd Edition 2002

Revised February 2010

Leading the Way for Child Care in North Dakota