

Pacifier Use Policy

POLICY: All pacifiers used by children participating in UMCHS will be handled and stored in a safe and sanitary manner. The following procedure will be followed at UMCHS centers to reduce exposure to germs/diseases and to enhance the health and safety of the children in the program.

PROCEDURE:

1. The pacifier will be labeled with the child's name with permanent marker before being used by the child at the center.
2. Individual containers, such as rubbermaid plastic containers with lids, will be used for storage of each child's pacifier. Containers must also be labeled with the child's name. Pacifiers will not be stored in plastic bags as the dampness encourages fungal growth. Containers will be sanitized weekly and when soiled.
3. Pacifiers must be run through the sanitizer before each use or when becoming contaminated. For proper sanitation of pacifiers, see the BOTTLE SANITIZING POLICY. Staff may encourage parents to bring more than one pacifier because of the frequency of pacifiers dropping out of the child's mouth.
4. Staff will regularly inspect pacifiers for deterioration including holes, frayed edges or tears. Parent will be notified when worn or damaged pacifiers need to be replaced.
5. Pacifiers will not be attached to the child by string or ribbon due to the risk of strangulation, pacifier clips attached to clothing may also pose the same danger.
6. Staff and parents will work together to wean child off the pacifier when developmentally appropriate.

