

NEW CRIB STANDARDS:

The Consumer Product Safety Commission [CPSC] has approved stronger new crib standards to ensure safe sleep for infants and toddlers. Effective December 28, 2012, any crib provided by a child care center or family child care home must meet new and improved federal safety standards. These new **standards ban the manufacture and sale of traditional drop-side cribs, require stronger mattress supports and crib slats, require crib hardware to be more durable, and require more rigorous safety testing.**

All cribs in all licensed facilities will be expected to be compliant with this law by December 28, 2012.

Effective June 28, 2011, all cribs sold must meet the new federal standards. Some compliant cribs have been on the market as early as July 2010. However, you will not be able to tell if the crib is compliant by looking at the crib. You must ask the retail store or the manufacturer to verify the crib meets the standards by requesting a **Certificate of Compliance**. Please note that the new regulations also prohibit the sale or donation of non-compliant cribs. CPSC recommends disassembling the crib before discarding it.

While this may become quite expensive, it is critical that you have the most-up-to-date equipment for children in your care. It is important that planning begin now to ensure that purchases can be made in order to meet the requirements that cribs being used meet the new standards **NO LATER than December 28, 2012.**

Please review the *Child Care Providers: Your Guide to New Crib Standards* flier provided by CPSC. You may access this flier at the following link:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/5023.pdf>

For more information visit the CPSC Crib Safety Information center on their website at <http://www.cpsc.gov/info/cribs/index.html>. These documents and more information as it becomes available will be on the Division's web page under "What's New".

Stay up-to-date with the Division of Child Development and Early Education at www.ncchildcare.net.

Blankets and SIDS

The AAP recommendation of removing blankets from the crib as a SIDS risk and suffocation hazard has created a lot of questions in the CCHC community, prompting us to prepare the following remarks for your reference. The recommendation is listed at the beginning and what this means for CCHCs and caregivers is at the bottom. Please review and let me know if you need further information or have more questions.

From the *National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Early Care and Education* Major Change to Safe Sleep Practices and SIDS/Suffocation Risk Reduction Standard.

The NRC wants to inform you that there has been a Major Change to a standard in *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs*, 3rd Edition, 2011.

The change is in the COMMENTS section of [Standard 3.1.4.1: Safe Sleep Practices and SIDS/Suffocation Risk Reduction](#), after "Use of Blankets".

The revised language states:

Use of Blankets: AAP recommendations state that blankets may be hazardous, and use of blankets is not advisable.1 (p. 98 in hard copy)

This language represents

- a change from the printed version of CFOC3 (June 2011) and
- is based on the AAP's new policy statement on SIDS and other sleep-related infant deaths (October 2011) <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2011/10/12/peds.2011-2284.full.pdf+html>.

Reason for Change: The "Feet to Foot Rule" is no longer recommended because it involves the use of blankets.

This change is based on the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) new policy statement, "SIDS and Other Sleep-Related Infant Deaths: Expansion of Recommendations for a Safe Infant Sleeping Environment", released October 18, 2011. To read the AAP policy statement in full: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2011/10/12/peds.2011-2284.full.pdf+html>

You can also view this information on the *CFOC3* page of the NRC's website: <http://www.nrckids.org/CFOC3>

Please feel free to contact NRC Staff at 1-800-598-KIDS (5437) if you have any questions about this change or any other *CFOC3* standard.

So what does this mean for CCHCs and infant caregivers in North Carolina?

- This is a recommendation from AAP, not a requirement at this time.
- No North Carolina rules have been changed. Blankets may be allowed in infant sleep places.
- If caregivers continue to use blankets they should continue to follow the "Feet to Foot" practice.



Best Practice: Forego the use of blankets for children less than one year of age. Sleep sacks and sufficient layers of clothing are safe alternatives to blankets.

Reminder: Observe all other rules to maintain a safe sleep environment such as back sleep position, room temperature between 68-75°F, no items in the crib, avoid overheating, appropriate use of waivers, visual sleep checks, sleep policies, and staff training.