

BIRTH TO FIVE PROHIBITED ITEMS POLICY

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| Policy Number: ED0107 | Effective Date: 07/17/01 Revision Date: 07/19/05 | Policy Council Approval Date: 07/17/01 New Policy Council Approval Date: 07/19/05, 9/27/16 |
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PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE: 1302.47(b)(1)(i-vii); 1302.47(5) Safety Practices – All staff and consultants follow appropriate practices to keep children safe during all activities

SUMMARY:

Head Start/Early Head Start's commitment to wellness embraces a comprehensive vision of health and safety for children, families and staff. It is the purpose of this policy to identify those items that children are prohibited from bringing into all Head Start and Early Head Start facilities and buses. These items are considered hazardous and may cause injury to children, families, volunteers and staff.

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

1. Backpacks – Are considered inappropriate for children 0-5 and also create storage and safety issues, both on the bus and in the classroom. **Exception:** Children who attend an early childhood special education classroom will be allowed to use a backpack to transport special related items to and from their home and classroom.
2. Fanny packs and any type of shoulder bags.
3. Flammables - Such as matches, cigarette lighters, charcoal lighters, etc.
4. Syringes
5. Weapons of any type, i.e., knives of any type, real/play guns (includes squirt guns & nerf guns, sling shot, etc.
6. Toys, Chap Stick, candy, gum, cough drops or food of any kind.
7. Videos, CD's, or DVD's.
8. Cell Phones and/or other electronic items.
9. Car Seats – May not be left in the Head Start/Early Head Start facility unless there is an extreme circumstance where it must be left for transportation purposes. This must be approved by the Area Supervisor and procedures for car seat storage must be followed.

PROCEDURES:

- Staff will inform parents at enrollment of these prohibited items and where this policy can be found in the Parent Manual at their center.
- A note will be sent home to the parent if a child brings any item deemed inappropriate on the bus or to the Head Start/Early Head Start center.
- Repeat violations will result in a meeting with the parent/s and staff.