

# Universal Precautions

## ECI Childteam Parent Information

### Universal Precautions

We work with your child in many different ways. Our ECI staff practice universal precautions. These precautions are used to decrease the spread of communicable diseases. We will follow these guidelines to protect you, your children, and our staff. We ask that you also become involved in these steps when you are working with your child.

### What are universal precautions?

Universal precautions are procedures and guidelines that prevent the spread of disease and reduce infection. These include the use of barriers, handwashing, cleaning, disinfecting, and using special techniques.

### What is a barrier?

A barrier is used between areas to prevent contact such as a Band-Aid covering an open cut. Our staff will use towels and gloves when needed. Gloves will be worn when contact is made with blood or body fluids, changing a diaper if diarrhea is present, if a cut is open, doing a procedure with tubes, and if therapy requires putting hands in the child's mouth.

### Handwashing

Handwashing is required of staff and recommended for parents

1. before and after sessions
2. before and after diaper changes
3. before and after eating or handling food
4. after using the restroom
5. if soiled with blood, body fluids, saliva, nasal drainage, urine, tears, or stool.

### Cleaning of toys

ECI toys are cleaned on a regular basis. Toys that are mouthed, drooled upon, or contaminated by body fluids are cleaned after use. Toys are cleaned before the next home visit.

### Immunization

If immunizations are delayed due to a medical condition, it will be noted in the child's record. If other barriers delay immunizations, the program will assist in locating resources. Please contact your service coordinator or a nurse if you have any questions about immunizations.

### When your child is ill...

If your child is ill (fever, nausea, diarrhea), or has a communicable disease, please call and cancel your appointment or session. Children will not do their best when they are ill. The staff will use universal precautions to protect themselves and your child from illnesses.

### Medications

Medications are not administered by the ECI staff. If your child requires medication during a session, the parent should give the medication. ECI does not supply or keep medications. If there are any questions about medications, please contact a nurse or your service coordinator.

### Health Safety Measures

Universal precautions will be used by all staff. ECI staff are also trained in CPR, seizure management, First Aid, and universal precautions.

### Special Medical Needs

If your child has special needs such as a gastostomy, trach, oxygen, dressings, etc., your service coordinator and a nurse will work with you to problem solve and understand the care. At times, a nurse may be the developmental person to work with your child.