

Your Child Care Health Consultant Should Know or Be Able to Find Out About:

- ◆ Relevant Regulations
- ◆ Community Health Resources
- ◆ Growth and Development of Children
- ◆ Managing Challenging Behavior in Children
- ◆ Infection Control, including Sanitation and Immunization
- ◆ Injury Prevention and Safe, Active Play
- ◆ Health Record Review
- ◆ Pediatric First Aid
- ◆ Emergency Preparedness
- ◆ Environmental Health
- ◆ Pediatric Nutrition and Food Safety
- ◆ Oral Health
- ◆ Children with Special Health Needs
- ◆ Medication Administration
- ◆ Consultation Skills
- ◆ Receiving Updates on Health and Safety
- ◆ Staff Health



For more information, contact:

ECELS-Healthy Child Care PA

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(800-243-2357)

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For more discussion of the role of the Child Care Health Consultant, search "health consultant" in *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards*, on the website of the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care, <http://nrckids.org>



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How to Choose and Use a Child Care Health Consultant



Pennsylvania Chapter,
American Academy of Pediatrics
ECELS-Healthy Child Care Pennsylvania

What is a Child Care Health Consultant?

A Child Care Health Consultant is a health professional who works with early education and school-age practitioners to recognize and promote the health and safety of children, families and their teachers.

Who can be a Child Care Health Consultant?

Child Care Health Consultants should be licensed or certified health professionals with knowledge in pediatrics and developmentally appropriate health and safety practices for non-parental child care. Examples of health professionals who may have the necessary knowledge and skills to be a child care health consultant: nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians, health educators, oral health professionals, nutritionists, and sanitarians.

Where Do You Find a Child Care Health Consultant?

- ◆ Call ECELS-Healthy Child Care PA
- ◆ Regional Key
- ◆ Local Health Agency
- ◆ Local Health Clinic
- ◆ Children's Hospital
- ◆ Clinicians who care for children

How Do You Select and Arrange for a Child Care Health Consultant?

- ◆ Interview for best qualified consultant in your area
- ◆ Check professional experience and qualifications
- ◆ Sign contract describing all services to be provided and any fees for the service



What Qualifications Should the Child Care Health Consultant Have?

- ◆ Current PA health professional license or certification recognized as a current health professional credential for that type of health professional
- ◆ Knowledge of, and respect for, the education/child care profession
- ◆ Knowledge of pediatric health care, child develop-

ment, community resources, local and state child care regulations

What Does a Child Care Health Consultant Do?

- ◆ Direct observation of health, safety and nutrition practices in early learning and school-age settings
- ◆ Provide on-site & phone consultation
- ◆ Link children, families, and child care providers with community health resources, e.g., health screenings, health insurance, mental health
- ◆ Help develop policies
- ◆ Provide nutrition/feeding information
- ◆ Provide communicable disease advice
- ◆ Support care for children with special health care needs
- ◆ Provide professional development workshops and mentoring to teach health and safety best practices
- ◆ Provide technical assistance to staff on health and safety concerns
- ◆ Help resolve conflicts between the instructions from a child's health care provider and child care practices
- ◆ Establish collaborative relationship with program staff and families
- ◆ Help programs meet quality criteria for accreditation and recognition