

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES SECTION

January 7, 2000

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Jane Morgan  
Macon County Health Department

**FROM:** *CM* Charles McKenzie, Regional Environmental Health Specialist  
Children's Environmental Health Branch

**THROUGH:** *EN* Ed Norman, Program Supervisor  
Children's Environmental Health Branch

**SUBJECTS:** Potable Water Supply, Nap time Lighting, and Nontoxic  
Cleaning Chemicals in Child Care Centers.

This response is in regards to your September 7, 1999 letter (enclosed) concerning: 1) potable water supplies in classrooms for children 0-3 years old and in classrooms for children 3-5 years old; 2) the amount of light required in classrooms during nap time; and 3) what types of chemicals may be used for cleaning table tops and counters that will not leave toxic a residue.

Rule .2815 indicates that water supplies shall meet the requirements of 15A NCAC 18C or 15A NCAC 18A .1700 Protection of Water Supplies. Rule .2816(a) indicates that drinking fountains of an approved type or individual drinking utensils shall constitute approved drinking water facilities. Rule .2819(c) states that all multi-use utensils used for drinking purposes shall be easily cleanable, cleaned and sanitized after each use. Single-service articles used for drinking water shall be stored and handled so as not to become contaminated by insects, dust, splash, and other contamination. Water may be brought from the kitchen under the above mentioned conditions or as stated in rule .2810(c) from a source other than a lavatory used for handwashing.

The amount of light required during nap time is not specifically addressed in the Child Care Sanitation rules, but rule .2826 does state that "At least 10 foot-candles of light, at 30 inches above the floor, shall be provided in all other areas." The use of florescent lighting is not addressed in the Child Care Sanitation rules.

The types of chemicals that may be used for cleaning table tops and counters are not listed in the Child Care Sanitation rules. However, chlorine solutions are



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specifically mentioned in rule .2819 Diaper Changing Facilities. In addition, rule .2812 Manual Cleaning and Sanitizing lists three chemicals that maybe used for sanitizing: Chlorine, Quaternary Ammonium products and Iodine products. Rule .2822 Furniture and Toys refers back to rule .2812 for sanitizing solutions. It is a widely accepted practice that counter tops and tables be cleaned with a detergent solution followed by proper sanitizing procedures. The use of chemicals other than those listed in the Child Care Sanitation rules should be evaluated by the local Environmental Health Specialist, using material safety data sheets as supplied by the manufacturer to determine whether the product is appropriate for the intended use and that a proper testing method is available to determine the end result. Detergent solutions and chlorine sanitizing solutions are recommended and they are easily purchased and mixed. Chlorine test papers are also widely available.

Enclosure

cc: EHHS Standard Distribution List



# MACON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER

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September 7, 1999

Charles McKenzie, RS  
Environmental Health Specialist  
Children's Environmental Health Branch  
NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
828 Merrimon Avenue  
Asheville, NC 28804



RE: Rule Interpretation for Macon Program for Progress Headstart

Dear Mr. McKenzie:

This Department recently participated in a training workshop for the day care staff of Macon Program for Progress Headstart. The following questions were raised during the discussion time. Lucy Pickens, Educational Coordinator for MPP Headstart, has requested interpretation, in writing, of the rules.

- 1) What is considered a potable water supply in the classrooms of 0-3 year-olds, since handwash lavatories in diaper changing areas, Rule .2819(a), and in infant/toddler feeding areas, Rule .2810(c), are designated exclusively for those purposes? Also, what is considered a potable water supply for 3-5-year olds?
- 2) What amount of lighting is required during naptime? Is a minimum required for visibility? Do any health risks exist if fluorescent lights are left on during naptime?
- 3) What type of chemicals may be used for cleaning table tops and counters that will not leave a toxic residue?

Ms. Pickens has requested the interpretations from this Department; however, I feel that a response from you will be more appropriate. Thanks for all your help.

Sincerely,

Jane Morgan, R. S.  
Environmental Health Specialist

JM/cg

jm.DaycareRules.cm