



Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory notice

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Title:	Use of nappy disposal bins in Early Years Services
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Circulation list:	Registered Providers of Early Years Services
Responsibility for action:	Registered Providers of Early Years Services

Background

The Office of the National Clinical Director Health Protection, HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre has written to the Early Years Inspectorate and requested an amendment to practice in relation to nappy disposal bins in Early Years Services.

Departments of Public Health frequently investigate outbreaks of infectious diseases such as Verotoxigenic E Coli (VTEC) or cryptosporidium that have been transmitted within early years services. VTEC is of particular concern as 1 in 10 children who develop this infection go on to develop a serious complication called Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome, which can be fatal.

What should be used

Disposable nappies should be disposed of in a foot-operated, lined, lidded bin that is leak proof, sealable and easy to clean.

This is because the use of a foot-operated bin minimises the number of surfaces touched by the childcare worker changing the nappy, particularly in the immediate aftermath of nappy changing during which time the childcare worker's hands are potentially contaminated. This in turn reduces the risk of contamination of surfaces.

What should not be used

Nappy bins that require the user to handle the bin a number of times during the disposal process, opening the lid by hand, placing the nappy inside the bin, twisting or spinning the surface on which the nappy is placed, and then closing the bin again by hand. As there are a significant number of surfaces touched by the person disposing of the nappy this is an infection control concern.

Support

Any queries regarding the suitability of nappy disposal bins can be submitted to rpd@tusla.ie