

Lau, Jennifer

From: Maker, Janice
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2006 4:42 PM
To: Lau, Jennifer
Subject: Comment on child care regulations changes Regulation # 14-506

I would like to address the new regulation §§ 3270.120, 3280.120 and 3290.119 (relating to infant sleep position). I am pleased that you are addressing the issue of having infants being placed on their back's to sleep as recommended by the Academy of Pediatrics but feel that you should also be addressing what is in the crib. The child should be placed in a safe sleep environment meaning that the crib should have no more than 2 3/8" between the crib slats so that the baby's head or body cannot fit through the slats. The crib should be well maintained meaning not missing, loss, broken or improperly installed screws, brackets or other hardware on the crib or mattress support. A firm tight fitting mattress so baby cannot get trapped between mattress and crib. Also not toys, bumper pads or pillows should be in the bed. If a blanket is used, it should be thin, tucked in on three sides and child should be corner only chest high.

The other issue I would like to address is §§ 3270.131, 3280.131 and 3290.131 (relating to health assessment information). I feel that it is important that children have regular physical examination and routine testing to insure good growth and development and the recommendation of the Academy of Pediatrics ensure that this is accomplished. The children are screened for important factors such as lead and anemia both of which are important in the early learning. Elevated lead levels can lead to lowering of IQ and anemia can lead to lack of energy to participate in active learning and reflects a poor diet that can lead to obesity and adult health problems. The other screening hearing and vision are needed for the education of the child and preparing them for kindergarten. I know one of the problems is the inability of the child care provider to obtain the results of the physical and testing, but it is important that they discuss the need for the physical and testing and document the interaction. They should also be questioning the need for health insurance as many children may be eligible for the CHIP program. The children still need immunizations on regular bases and these needs to be monitored to prevent the spread of communicable disease. This will provide for the complete medical care of the children.

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