

REQUIREMENTS FOR INFANT UNITS - CHILD CARE CENTERS

Good beginnings last a lifetime. The child care service you offer is important to the community and will have a lasting impact on the children in your care. Kansas child care laws and regulations are designed to reduce the predictable risk of harm to children. These guidelines will help you understand the requirements for infant units in Kansas for new facilities or existing facilities requesting to amend the license to add an infant unit. The following is not inclusive of all requirements. You are responsible for reviewing and complying with all regulations. Contact the local child care surveyor if you have any questions or concerns regarding compliance.

Infant and toddler units are to be conducted on the **ground floor only** as stated in K.A.R. 28-4-440(a). Infant and toddler units are to be separate from units for older children as stated in K.A.R. 28-4-440(b). An outdoor play area with equipment appropriate for infants and toddlers is required.

A changing table is required for each infant or toddler unit as stated in K.A.R. 28-4-440(o) (4). Hand washing facilities are to be in or adjacent to the diaper-changing area as stated in K.A.R. 28-4-440(o) (3).

Space Requirements: Thirty-five square feet of floor space per child is required for children's activities as stated in K.A.R. 28-4-423(a) (2). In an infant unit, the required space for the sleep area is NOT included in the square footage as space available for children's activities.

Sleep Area: The infant sleep area must be separated from the active play area as stated in K.A.R. 28-4-440(d). The sleep area must contain enough space for a crib or playpen for each infant in care [K.A.R. 28-4-440(e)] with two feet of space in all directions [K.A.R. 28-4-436(b) (5)] except when bordering a wall. The sleep area space required is **in addition to the required play space**. Stacking cribs and bassinets are not permitted. Lighting may be dimmed in the sleep area but not so dark that the staff person cannot see every infant. Soft music is recommended.

The infant sleep area may be separated from the active area by one of the following methods:

- 1) A separate room which allows visibility and allows all infants to remain within hearing distance from the play area or has a staff person in both play and sleep areas for purposes of supervision.
- 2) Room dividers or shelves that divide the play and sleep area and are firmly anchored or constructed in a way to prevent tipping or climbing. The height of the dividers or shelves must not impair the visual supervision of all areas of the unit by staff. Recommended height is 3 feet.

Staffing Requirements: Staff persons caring for infants and toddlers are required to meet the minimum training requirements as stated in K.A.R. 28-4-440(l). Programs serving infants should become familiar with the recommendations for sleeping infants to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that infants sleep on their backs.

The required staff/child ratio is to be maintained **at all times**. No child is to be left unsupervised as stated in K.A.R. 28-4-428(a). The facility and program must be designed so that staff do not leave children unsupervised while changing diapers, washing hands, potty training, feeding children, attending to their own needs, etc.