



Quality ChildCare

For Registered Home-Based Providers

LEARNING TO GROW ★ WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Vol. IV, No. 2

10 Hallmarks of Quality Child Care

- ★ Build trusting relationships
- ★ Provide consistent care
- ★ **Support children's health**
- ★ **Provide a safe environment**
- ★ Provide positive guidance
- ★ Provide a language-rich environment
- ★ Foster curiosity and development through play
- ★ Individualize care and learning activities
- ★ Partner with parents
- ★ Pursue personal and professional growth

This Month's Hallmarks of Quality Child Care

Support Children's Health, Provide a Safe Environment

Keeping Art Activities Safe

Art experiences are an important part of child development and a mainstay of many child care programs. It's a way for children to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings creatively and enjoy sensory experiences.

The availability of interesting art materials can be found not only in art supply stores, but also in nature, local grocery stores and neighborhood pharmacies. However, not all of the available materials are safe for young children.

Art products are mixtures of chemicals and need to be used correctly. Many young children will swallow or chew these materials so it is important to ensure that they are safe for the age of the children using them. The Art and Creative Materials Institute (ACMI) is a non-profit association of over 200 manufacturers of art materials. They promote safety through a certification program that tests art materials to determine if the ingredients are safe for children's use.

In this newsletter, we'll show you:

- Labels to look for when purchasing art materials,
- Information from Penn State Better Kid Care on the health and safety basics of providing art experiences,
- Insert: *Art materials for infants and toddlers: What's safe and what's not.*



Look for proper labels

Always choose art materials created specifically for children's use. Look for art materials with the AP (Approved Product) seal from ACMI. AP certified art materials are tested, proven to be non-toxic, and safe for use with young children.

Look for these seals:



Materials that have been tested and found to be toxic or hazardous have a Caution Label (CL). Although they may not be hazardous if used correctly by adults, they should not be used with children of any age.

There are art materials on the market that list "non-toxic" on their labels without the Art



and Creative Materials Institute AP seal. Before using these materials, contact the manufacturer for confirmation that proper testing has been done to ensure the product is non-toxic. An art product that has not been properly tested may not cause immediate problems, but there may be dangers if children use uncertified art materials repeatedly over time.

For more safety information see the insert included in this packet, "Art materials for infants and toddlers: What's safe, what's not."



Use art materials safely

Follow these safety precautions when using art materials with young children:

- Read the labels of art materials and make sure the “AP” (Approved Product) seal from ACMI is present.
- Do not allow the children to eat or drink while they use art materials.
- Pour the amount of paint needed for the day’s activity into smaller containers and seal the original container so the paint inside doesn’t become contaminated.
- If you add water to paint for the children to use, throw away any paint that is left at the end of the activity. Water may dilute the preservatives in paint that guard against bacteria.
- Discard paint left at the end of the activity by rinsing in the sink or pour leftover paint into a sealed container and place it in a covered trash can.
- Throw away expired products.



- Never use art products for painting skin or in the preparation of food unless the product label indicates it is safe for this purpose.
- Store art materials in their original containers with labels that include the list of ingredients, expiration date, and safety information.
- Provide appropriate supervision whenever children use art materials.
- Wash the children’s hands, your own hands, art supplies, and tables in the art area after use.

Poison Control Center

The poison control center at 1-800-222-1222 offers expert advice for anyone concerned about a child who may have ingested an art product or gotten it in their eyes. On their website, one can find frequently asked questions and answers about chalk, pencils, ballpoint pens, markers, erasers, glues, and paints. Visit <https://www.poison.org/articles/2008-oct/safe-use-of-art-products> for more information.



Citations:

Art and Creative Materials Institute Website.
<https://acmiart.org/index.php/component/content/?view=featured> (10/24/17)

Waring, E. (N.D.) Safe Use of Art Products.
 Poison Control, National Capital Poison Center.
<https://www.poison.org/articles/2008-oct/safe-use-of-art-products>

Penn State Extension, Better Kid Care.
http://bkcc-od-media.vmhost.psu.edu/documents/HO_NSOIT_CreatingSafeSpace_Art.pdf

Training Certificates, Book Awards, Technical Support

- **Certificates.** Providers who return reflection sheets will receive a certificate for one hour of professional development completed. These certificates will be aligned with the Attitudes, Skills, & Knowledge (ASK) Core Areas, which are recognized by the Hawaii State Department of Human Services to support improvement of quality in early childhood programs. There is no specific due date required to earn this certificate but please note: **the reflection sheet must be completed in full and you must thoughtfully answer question # 5 on the reflection sheet in order to earn the certificate.**
- **Free books.** Free children's books will continue to be given for reflection sheets returned by the posted due date. However, if there are any additional books left over, they will be given to the providers who submit the reflection sheets past the due date. These books will be awarded on a first come, first served basis until the supply runs out.
- **Free technical assistance and support** related to child care issues can be requested by answering question #8 on the reflection sheet.



Join us on Facebook!
 University of Hawaii Learning to Grow
www.facebook.com/learningtogrowhawaii/

Learning to Grow Quality Child Care for Registered Home-Based Providers is a project of University of Hawai'i, Windward Community College with funding from the Hawai'i Department of Human Services ★ 808-462-4700 ★ www.learningtogrowhawaii.org