Department of Health & Human Services DHHS NEBRASKA

Together For Kids and Families

CHILD CARE PREPARED…for SEIZURES

INFORMATION FOR THE LICENSED CHILD CARE PROVIDER

Provide a supportive and attentive environment for the young child with seizures. Seizures may occur suddenly and staff must be prepared to quickly and calmly respond to the child with seizure, and also to other children who may be present.

Identify and train all staff members who have responsibility for the child with seizures. Include drivers and helpers as appropriate in your child care setting. Having a written seizure action plan for the child, completed with information from parent and medical provider, will help guide what staff must know and do to help the young child with a seizure condition.

Children with seizure conditions should not be left alone. Someone should always be with the child. If a seizure occurs, the child will need someone who can run for help.

All personnel caring for the young child with seizures must be prepared to recognize and respond to signs of seizure as quickly as possible: protect the child from fall and injury; know the appropriate actions to take if the seizure lasts more than a couple of minutes or the child has breathing difficulties; and know how to safely and correctly give medications.

Keep all medication products locked when not in use, and safely out of the reach of children. Administer all routine medications on time and in the correct dose.

Encourage parents to keep you updated with current emergency contact information in case their child has an emergency while in child care. Remind parents of this on a regular basis.

Make sure emergency contact information and medication go on outings with the child, as well as a cell phone or other means of calling for help. If the child is not already wearing one, recommend to the parent that the child wear a medical ID bracelet when away from home and parent.

Talk with parents regularly about any changes in the child's seizure condition or treatment plan. In turn, keep parents informed with details about any seizures or other concerns at child care.

Children with chronic health conditions can learn to participate in, and master, their own self care. This process can begin early with helping the child to learn and use words to let an adult know if they feel funny or like a seizure is coming on. Children can learn to speak about their condition and medications at an early age, with supervision and help. The degree of independence will emerge over time, and varies by child.

Ask parents to help identify any known triggers or stresses that seem to prompt seizures, if known.

Be prepared to call 911 if the child fails to get relief from medication, becomes unresponsive, stops breathing, or seizures are longer than 3-5 minutes.

Respect the privacy of children and their families and do not discuss or share information about individual children's needs inappropriately.

SEIZURE RESOURCES FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND FREE:

Epilepsy Foundation:
http://www.epilepsyfoundation.org/aboutepilepsy/index.cfm/

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
http://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/basics/faqs.htm

http://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/training.htm

NE Early Childhood Training Center:
http://www.education.ne.gov/oec/ectc.html

National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education:
http://nrckids.org/

Caring for Our Children, 3rd Ed.
http://nrckids.org/CFOC3/index.html

Resources from the American Academy of Pediatrics:
www.healthychildcare.org

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www.dhhs.ne.gov/TogetherKidsFamilies
and
http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/lifespanhealth_childcarehealthconsultation.aspx