

Pacifier & Bib Use Policy

POLICY: All pacifiers and bibs used by children participating in UMCHS will be handled and stored in a safe and sanitary manner. The following procedure will be followed at UMCHS centers to reduce exposure to germs/diseases and to enhance the health and safety of the children in the program.

PROCEDURE:

1. The pacifier will be labeled with the child's name with permanent marker before being used by the child at the center.
2. Pacifiers will be stored individually in a pacifier rack (ie. similar to toothbrush rack) or will be stored in individual containers (rubbermaid plastic containers with lid). Containers/Rack must also be labeled with the child's name. Pacifiers will not be stored in plastic bags as the dampness encourages fungal growth. Containers will be sanitized weekly and when soiled.
3. Pacifiers must be run through the sanitizer before each use or when becoming contaminated. For proper sanitation of pacifiers, see the BOTTLE SANITIZING POLICY. Staff may encourage parents to bring more than one pacifier because of the frequency of pacifiers dropping out of the child's mouth. Bibs will be washed after each use before using again.
4. Staff will regularly inspect pacifiers and bibs for deterioration including holes, frayed edges or tears. Parent will be notified when worn or damaged pacifiers need to be replaced.
5. Pacifiers will not be attached to the child by string or ribbon due to the risk of strangulation, pacifier clips attached to clothing may also pose the same danger. Bibs should be cloth (disposable bibs are not recommended) and be velcro or snap fasten (do not use ones that tie as they may pose a danger.) Children should not wear bibs during naptimes and be adequately supervised at all times.
6. Staff and parents will work together to wean child off the pacifier when developmentally appropriate.

