

# Competency Statement 1

## EXAMPLE #1

**I will** establish and maintain a safe, healthy learning environment by keeping my center and playground area clean and free of debris. I feel the first step to encourage learning is to keep a clean and safe environment, one that stimulates the child and meets the individual learning styles. We as childcare providers have a responsibility to meet the needs of each of the children we work with, whether that need is physical or emotional.

**Safe:** My playground and center are inspected on a regular basis by the Davis County School District and Utah Health Department.

**Health:** All of the children registered in my center have up to date immunization records. My staff is required to have current first Aid and CPR training.

**Learning:** My curriculum meets the needs of the individual child, because this is a training center for high school students we constantly seeking the best ways to stimulate and inspire the child.

## EXAMPLE #2

I will provide an environment that is safe, physically and emotionally healthy, and promotes optimal learning.

**Safe:** I use age appropriate toys and furnishings such as cribs and vinyl mats for young infants, soft climbing forms for mobile infants, low shelves and child size chairs for toddlers. Inside and outside play areas are clutter-free. Plugs are covered and cords kept out of reach. Drawers and cabinets are locked. Broken toys are repaired or discarded. First aid kits and fire extinguishers are accessible to adults. Posted emergency plans are practiced. Emergency numbers are posted. Daily inspections are performed.

I help infants feel safe through expression of tenderness and meeting their needs. I watch for potential hazards as infants become mobile and adjust the environment and my responses appropriately. With mobile infants I talk about staying safe and using redirection. I set simple rules such as, "Feet on the floor", and "Teachers open doors". When safety or rule issues arise, I ask my toddlers "What's my job?", and most of them reply, "To keep me safe," after which we talk about ways to stay safe.

Emotional safety is promoted through daily greetings, love rituals and positive reinforcement. Children's feelings are acknowledged, validated, and appropriate guidance suggested and modeled. These practices work with all ages. My toddlers have a "safe place" that offers books and toys appropriate to stress reduction and emotional self-control.

**Healthy practices:** include proper hand washing at diaper changes, potty time, before and after meals, after wiping noses, when entering the classroom, and after playing outside. Toddlers are supervised and helped when necessary. We sing a jingle to ensure that they wash long enough. Mobile infants are physically aided. Young infants can have hands washed using a wet cloth. Toys, surfaces, and dishes are cleaned and sanitized daily. Cups and bottles are labeled. Mouthed toys are separated to avoid sharing. Food is stored appropriately. Good nutrition, healthy eating habits and dental hygiene are taught daily. Parents are supported in caring for their child's medical needs and immunizations. An illness policy is enforced. Medical plans are written as necessary. I believe that when children feel well they are better able to play and learn.

**Learning:** When children feel safe and are healthy they begin to enjoy the world around them and build a base for future learning. I create learning environments by introducing new and exciting activities and spaces such as a texture cloth for infants, a shallow ball pit for mobile infants, and a play kitchen for toddlers and preschoolers. As curiosity grows, the environment must adapt to allow for exploration, challenges, and practice of new skills. Quiet areas are separated from noisy play areas. Consistent routines help children feel safe in knowing what is coming next and learn and practice daily skills. Adapting that routine can take advantage of spontaneous learning opportunities.

I am on the floor at their level to encourage development and celebrate accomplishments while maintaining awareness of safety, healthy, and developmentally appropriate learning practices.