



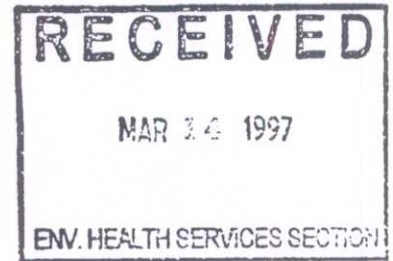
NEW HANOVER COUNTY

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ROBERTS. PARKER
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March 7, 1997



Mr. Ed Norman
Parker-Lincoln Bldg., PO Box 27687
Division of Environmental Health
Raleigh, NC 27611-7687

RE: Should Uncapping a Baby Bottle be Considered Food Preparation?

Mr. Norman:

I was wondering if you have received any feedback from other counties regarding Worth Heath's letter of December 17, 1997, in answer to Ms. Nixon's question, as to whether an infant/toddler area (extra hand lavatory) is needed for the dispensing of cold bottles to infants and toddlers.

In New Hanover County, we have required the infant/toddler preparation area where needed as described to us in a memo from Sue Grayson on April 10, 1995. As I understand the requirement, it was intended to provide an area separate from the diapering area for food preparation. We have not considered the dispensing of cold bottles to be food preparation as defined by the rules or other guidelines.

What is your opinion on this?

Sincerely,

James G. Roosen R.S.

cc: Wayne Jones, Regional EH Specialist

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Your Health - Our Priority

State of North Carolina
Department of Environment,
Health and Natural Resources
Division of Environmental Health
Environmental Health Services Section



James B. Hunt, Jr., Governor
Jonathan B. Howes, Secretary
Linda C. Sewall, Director

April 7, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: James G. Roosen, R.S.
Environmental Health Specialist
New Hanover County Health Department

FROM: Wayne Jones, R.S. *Wayne Jones*
Regional Environmental Health Specialist
Children's Environmental Health Branch

THROUGH: *EAD* Ed Norman, Branch Head
Children's Environmental Health Branch

SUBJECT: Infant/Toddler Food Service Areas

This is in response to your March 7, 1997 correspondence to Ed Norman regarding Worth Heath's December 7, 1996 memo regarding **infant/toddler food service areas in child day care facilities that dispense "cold" bottles to infants.**

After reviewing the rules governing the Sanitation of Child Day Care Facilities, in particular 15A NCAC 18A .2810(c) and Sue Grayson's April 10, 1995 memo on this subject, I concur that infant/toddler food service areas are required when bottles are stored and dispensed from refrigerators located in infant and toddler areas.

While .2810(c) mentions "warming of bottles" and "bottle warming equipment", proper hand washing rather than cold versus warm bottles is the primary issue being addressed. Clean hands are needed to remove the bottle from the refrigerator, remove the cap and give it to the child. Warming the bottle (if necessary) is another step in the process. The same is true when removing the lid from a jar of baby food. Proper hand washing is key.

Given that illnesses are more common in facilities where the same caregiver prepares food, feeds children and changes diapers (See enclosure), a separate lavatory for handwashing is needed.

Of course, increasing the number of hand sinks has no benefit if caregivers do not wash their hands more frequently as a result. Continued education of caregivers on the importance of handwashing coupled with good work practices and clean hand sinks will result in the best possible sanitation for infants and toddlers in licensed day care facilities.

Enclosures

cc: EHSS Standard Distribution List