

## Activities of a Sanitarian as a Child Care Consultant

### Who is the Sanitarian?

A person with knowledge of the principles of physical, biological, and social sciences as applied to the improvement, control and management of man's environment. Included are aspects of public health to control the spread of disease and other health hazards, such as food contamination, air and water pollution, insect and rodent control, solid waste disposal, sewage disposal, and abatement of nuisances. A Sanitarian is also familiar with the science of cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and where necessary, sterilization.

### Credentials



- Competence in the science of Sanitation (Food Sanitarian, Health Officer, Food Inspector, Food Science or Health Instructor/educator, Environmental Health Specialists, Epidemiologist, Health Nurse, Physician)
- Competence in working as a consultant to a program, including strong verbal, writing and interpersonal skills
- Understanding of child care as a delivery system: variety of facilities, regulatory requirements, standards, and community resources to link with child care

FUNCTION	ENVIRONMENT	OPERATION
Foodborne Illness Prevention	Ensure that food supply and facility meet standards and is free of known hazards	Provide training to those who handle food Provide parent information on bagged lunches and home preparation of food Assure facility has a response system in place to deal with foodborne illness
Insect and Rodent control	Ensure that facility has no harborage sites and has in place a control program that provides for safe and effective control measures	Educate staff in the identification and prevention of insects and rodents
Cleaning and Sanitation	Ensure that facility has a cleaning and sanitation program in place and is using chemicals properly	Educate staff on chemical use and concentration. Help staff distinguish between cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting and sterilizing.
Air Quality control	Ensure that facility has the proper ventilation and air supply system in place to prevent air-borne contamination	Work with facility maintenance personnel to assess and control risks

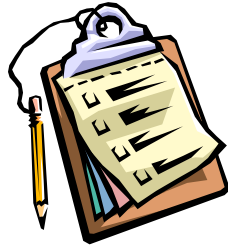
### Where to find a Sanitarian?

- PA Department of Agriculture - 717-787-4315
- PA Department of Health- 1-877-PA HEALTH
- Local Health Departments, county and local health officers lists available thru PA Department of Health or PA Department of Agriculture
- Food Facility, Food Safety or Health Consultants (private)
- Colleges that provide training in Food Science, Food Safety and Sanitation; Example—Harrisburg Area Community College, Penn State
- Penn State Cooperative Extension Offices, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Programs. Extensions are located in all PA counties. Lists available thru extension offices and the PA Department of Agriculture



## Tasks

- ◆ Provide telephone advice to child care providers
- ◆ Perform on-site assessments of environment and operations
- ◆ Help develop policies and procedures on health and safety
- ◆ Help identify and work with a point person on health and safety in each child care facility, a "health advocate"
- ◆ Help caregivers obtain, understand, and use information to ensure the health of enrolled children
- ◆ Help caregivers obtain, understand and use job-related health information about child care staff
- ◆ Help caregivers accommodate children, family members and staff with special health needs in the child care setting
- ◆ Help families use a primary health clinician who will provide a "medical home" for their children
- ◆ Educate staff, families, and children about health issues and community resources
- ◆ Help implement child care operations and facility improvement plans
- ◆ Use licensing regulations, inspections and national standards to promote safe and healthy child care



For more information,  
Contact ECELS-  
Healthy Child Care PA

484-446-3003

800-24-ECELS

(800-243-2357)

[www.ecels-healthychildcarepa.org](http://www.ecels-healthychildcarepa.org)

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**ROLE OF THE  
CHILD CARE  
HEALTH  
CONSULTANT:  
FOOD SAFETY AND  
FACILITY SANITATION**

