

Early Childhood Scenarios

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

- 1** You place a child in their crib for naptime. When you go to check on them later, the child is unresponsive and you cannot feel a pulse.
- 2** It is snack time. While you are turned around grabbing napkins, you hear a loud coughing noise behind you. When you turn around, you see that the child you heard is beginning to look red and their eyes are watering.
- 3** During outdoor playtime, one of your students who has finally begun to walk, falls over on the playground. You check the child's pulse, which is steady. However, you do not hear breathing, and you are the only adult on the playground with all of the children.
- 4** Ten minutes ago, you called the front desk to alert them to a child who has a 101-degree fever. In your next check of the child, you notice that he is no longer breathing.
- 5** When taking count of your class, you notice that you have one child less than you expected to count.
- 6** A six-month-old child in your care has been crawling around the floor during free play. Suddenly, though, you realize that they are making no noise and their face is red.
- 7** An eight-month-old student has suddenly gone into cardiac arrest, and you do not know why.
- 8** A seven-month-old student is eating cereal during snack time. When you look inside her mouth, you see a large, wet mass of cereal inside.
- 9** You have removed the obstruction from the mouth of a choking seven-month-old in your care. However, the child is now unresponsive.

HEALTH AND ILLNESS

- 1 A child in your care comes to school with very dry skin. After drop off, you notice significant redness and cracking. She does not have any lotion or ointment in her supply bag and your center does not carry such supplies for individual students.
 - 2 A child in your charge has been more tired today than is typical. The child has also been sneezing and exhibiting difficult breathing, even while seated.
 - 3 One of the children in your class seemed fine when they came in this morning. However, now they have suddenly spiked a very high fever. You are beginning to notice a slight rash on their tummy.
 - 4 After naptime, you notice that one of your children's cheeks are quite red. You wait a while to see if perhaps they overheated during naptime. However, after thirty minutes, the redness has not subsided. You take their temperature and they are running a low-grade fever.
 - 5 A child in your care has not had a bowel movement all day. They have been crying on and off and their stomach seems slightly distended.
 - 6 One of the children in your class refused to eat lunch. After further inspection, you notice painful, blister-like bumps on their gums and they feel warm to the touch.
 - 7 One of your students cries every time they have to swallow. They have a light fever and you notice that there are tiny red spots at the back of the roof of their mouth.
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BEHAVIOR AND DEVELOPMENT

- 1 One of the children in your class is finishing their first week at the center. Every day when their mother leaves, the child cries uncontrollably for the first hour.
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SAFETY AND SUPERVISION

- 1 During free play time, one of your students bites another. The student who was bitten is exhibiting broken skin with slight bleeding. You notice a small amount of blood on the mouth of the student who bit.

MANDATED REPORTING / WELFARE CONCERNS

- 1** A child you are in charge of comes into school excessively dirty on a regular basis. You notice dirt on their faces and sometimes you notice that the dirt has been their skin so long that it feels as though it hurts them when you try to wipe it off.
 - 2** One of the children in your class comes in with suspicious bruises. There are multiple bruises under where areas that their clothing covers.
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PARENT COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES

- 1** A parent comes to drop her student off during early morning drop off. She is upset because she says that yesterday, she did not receive her daily communication sheet from the afternoon teacher.
- 2** At drop off, a parent mentions that his child has a low-grade fever and threw up the night before. He asks that you call him if his child exhibits any additional sign of illness.
- 3** Today during free play, one of your children got hit (but not injured) by another student. You complete an incident report and give it to the parent of the child who was hit. She asks to speak with your director as she is concerned that her child is being bullied in your class.
- 4** Every morning you have a parent who stays for twenty minutes asking questions about his child's progress. While you are thrilled that this parent is involved, you are concerned that it is impacting the services that you are providing to the other children in your care.
- 5** A parent calls during the day. They state that they saw you reading to the children for too long and that the children were not getting enough time to actively play.
- 6** You have a parent who consistently comes in to drop off during naptime, waking all of the babies who are sleeping on their schedule.
- 7** A parent stays late while picking up her child to let you know that her and the child's father are getting divorced. She would like you to watch out for any signs of anxiety or changes in the child.

PARENT COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES

- 8 A parent comes to you, frustrated, relaying an event that happened at the birthday party of another child in your class over the weekend. This was not a school event, nor were you in attendance.
- 9 An adult comes into your classroom to pick up a child. You have never seen this adult before, but they assure you that they checked in at the counter before coming back to your classroom.
- 10 During pickup, a parent begins speaking negatively about one of the children in your care. She says, "Wow, it's such a shame that that baby isn't developing as quickly as all of the other babies."
- 11 During drop off, a parent comes to tell you how frustrated they are that your center director charged them for a full week.
- 12 As you are walking out to take your lunch, a student's parent comes up to your car to discuss their child's progress. After you answer, they continue the discussion until you are due to clock back in.
- 13 A child's grandparent calls your classroom during the day to check in on a student. To your knowledge, this person is not on the student's contact forms now are they the child's legal guardian.
- 14 A distraught parent comes to you during drop off and tells you that it is critical that you have a conference today. The only time she is available to meet is at seven pm, after your center closes.
- 15 A child's parent comes to you angry that it is the second day that their child has attended your center and they are still crying at drop off. They do not think you are helping to acclimate their child to daycare.
- 16 Despite your center's policy that no outside food be brought in, every day a parent brings her child with three extra snacks. At pick up, she is upset that you have not utilized the snacks.
- 17 A parent comes to you upset that another child pulled her child's hair. You did not see that happen, but you assure the parent that you will be extra vigilant today. She demands to speak to your center director.
- 18 Your center is throwing a winter party for each classroom. A parent comes to you upset that you have chosen to celebrate winter with your students, rather than Christmas.

PARENT COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES

- 19 Your center was closed on Memorial Day. This closure was advertised via a note home in the child's communication folder and on the center website. A parent comes in on Tuesday, highly upset that they brought their child to an empty center.
- 20 A parent comes to you, frustrated that she overheard another teacher speaking negatively about the students. You did not witness this event and did not work with this teacher directly but felt compelled to respond to the parent's concern.