Pack-n-Play Safety Guidelines
Prepared by the Health Consultant Team at Child Care Aware® of North Dakota

How to prepare and setup a pack-n-play.

• Make sure the pack-n-play is not recalled – check www.cpsc.gov for updates.
• Read the manufacturer’s instructions before assembly and use of the pack-n-play
• Pack-n-plays made after February 28, 2013 are required to meet new federal standards.
• Frame should be structurally sturdy.
• Frame should lock in place on all four sides.
• Mesh weave should be less than ¼” and free from tears/holes.
• Only use the pad made by the manufacturer of the pack-n-play. No other pad is allowed.
• Corners of the pad should meet in all four corners of the frame.
• Pad should be flat and maintain its shape. It should not buckle/fold.
• Put Velcro straps under pad through button holes of bottom. Fasten straps under bottom.
• Pull straps with snaps through bottom of pack-n-play. Wrap straps around tubes and snap on all four corners.
• Keep area under pad clean and check bottom forrips/tears.
• Check pad frequently to make sure wood panels in the pad aren’t broken or haven’t shifted.
• Use properly fitting fitted sheets. Flat sheets, sheets that are too big (ex. crib sheets), or sheets that are too small are not allowed.
• Pad must maintain shape (lay flat and meet all four corners of the frame) when fitted sheet is used. If pad cannot maintain shape, use it without a sheet.
• No pins should be used to secure sheets.
• Nothing can be attached to the pack-n-play or hung from the sides (e.g. mobile, toys, blanket etc.).
• Make sure that nothing is in reach within 3 feet of a child when he/she is in the pack-n-play. Examples: monitor cords, blinds, bi-fold closet doors (pinching hazard), etc.
• Pack-n-play should not be used if a child is able to climb out.
• Follow manufacturer’s weight and height guidelines for use.
• Bassinet inserts are not allowed.
• Changing pads provided by the manufacturer that attach to the pack-n-play cannot be used.

How to clean a pack-n-play when a pad is used without a sheet

• Pad should be cleaned with soap and water weekly or before it is used by a different child.
• Don’t saturate the pad with soap and water - lightly spray and wipe or use a damp cloth.
• If the pad is soiled with poop, urine, vomit, or blood, then the pad should be disinfected. Clean pad with soap and water, then spray with disinfectant.
• Disinfectant should be EPA registered. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions regarding proper use of the disinfectant.
• It is important to clean pad with soap and water after using disinfectant to remove any residue on the pad.
• Make sure the pad is dry before using.

How to determine if a pack-n-play is safe to use.

• If the frame is unstable/loose or mesh is torn, the entire pack-n-play needs to be replaced.
• If there is a problem with the pad, contact the manufacturer for a replacement pad. If a replacement pad is not available from the manufacturer of the pack-n-play, the entire pack-n-play needs to be replaced. Replacement pads made by other companies are not approved for use.