The National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education (NRC) has just released important information about the concentration of new bleach solutions and how it impacts the recommendations made in *Caring for Our Children, 3rd ed.* It also impacts the technical assistance provided in the Technical Assistance and Consultation Manuals for Child Care Homes and Centers.

If you use a diluted bleach solution for sanitizing and disinfecting in your early care and education programs, the concentration of bleach sold in stores has changed in many areas of the country. The new bleach available in many stores is **8.25 percent sodium hypochlorite (higher than the formerly available bleach of 5.25 percent to 6 percent).** The 8.25 percent bleach is being produced by both brand name companies as well as companies that produce generic products. Several companies have communicated to the NRC that they have discontinued manufacturing the 5.25 percent - 6 percent sodium hypochlorite bleach and it will no longer be available at many stores.

The NRC is working to determine if an updated recipe for diluted bleach sanitizing and disinfecting solutions can be formulated and used across bleach products containing this higher concentration of sodium hypochlorite. Until clear guidance is developed on the feasibility (due to varied manufacturers’ instructions) of providing a new recipe to replace the one currently listed in the attached Appendix J of *Caring for Our Children, 3rd ed.* and provided in the Technical Assistance and Consultation Manuals for Child Care Homes and Centers, the **NRC recommendation for now is:**

1. If you are using 8.25 percent sodium hypochlorite bleach, use only an EPA-registered product. This designation along with a number is on the label.
2. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for diluting the product for sanitizing or disinfecting, as well as for the contact time. (Instructions on how to determine if the bleach you are using is an EPA-registered product.)
3. If you cannot use an EPA-registered product at this time, the NRC recommends you contact your local health department for assistance in creating the safe dilutions necessary to sanitize and/or disinfect surfaces in your early care and education environment.

If you are using 5.25 percent to 6 percent sodium hypochlorite bleach, continue to follow the dilution and contact time instructions provided in technical assistance.

Please visit http://cfoc.nrckids.org/Bleach/Bleach.cfm for more information.

If you have further questions about this, please contact your licensing consultant.

cc: Child Care Licensing Consultants and Area Managers