Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards, Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care Programs, 2nd Edition (a joint publication of the American Academy of Pediatrics, National Resource Center, and the American Public Health Association)

http://cfoc.nrckids.org/

This publication presents guidelines and standards on health and safety for early child care and education programs. Topics covered include staffing, health promotion and protection, nutrition and food services, facilities and environmental health, play areas, children with special needs, licensing, and administration. The standards on the website are more current and frequently updated compared to the PDF version.

The Foundations of Lifelong Health are Built in Early Childhood

http://developingchild.harvard.edu/index.php/resources/reports_and_working_papers/foundations-of-lifelonghealth/

This publication presents some essential findings based on research in neuroscience, molecular biology and genomics. The authors explain the significance of these findings for decision-makers across early childhood program and health promotion and prevention policy sectors and offer a new framework for viewing early childhood policy and practice. The entire document is available on the website, along with a summary of the essential findings.

How We Play- Cultural Determinants of Physical Activity in Young Children

http://www.playscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/HowWePlayLitReview.pdf

This literature review synthesizes the research on various socio-cultural influences on physical activity in young children at home and at school. Implications for research and policy are discussed. A summary of studies and their measurement and findings are presented as well.

Physical Activity, Self-Regulation, and Early Academic Achievement in Preschool Children

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10409289.2013.780505#tabModule

This study investigated whether active play during recess was associated with self-regulation and academic achievement in a prekindergarten sample. Results indicated that higher active play was associated with better self-regulation, which in turn was associated with higher scores on early reading and math assessments.

Policies to Promote Child Health

http://www.princeton.edu/futureofchildren/publications/journals/journal_details/index.xml?journalid=83
This May 2015 issue of the Future of Children reviews the strongest evidence to date on how best to promote child health and discusses what interventions and strategies work best at various stages of children's development. It includes articles specific to promoting child health in the early childhood years and the importance of family-centered programs and policies.

Prevention of Child Abuse in Early Childhood Programs and the Responsibilities of Early Childhood Professionals to Prevent Child Abuse

http://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/positions/PSCHAB98.PDF

This NAEYC position statement presents recommendations to prevent child abuse in early childhood programs. These recommendations center on roles by early childhood programs, family members, public regulation, and early childhood professionals. The paper elaborates on the role of the early childhood programs and policies related to staff screening, recruitment, retention, and promotion of partnerships with families.

Promoting the Health, Safety and Well-Being of Young Children with Disabilities and Developmental Delays http://dec.membershipsoftware.org/files/Position%20Statement%20and%20Papers/Health%20Position%20Statement.pdf

This 2013 position statement from the Division for Early Childhood elaborates on the six recommendations presented by the DEC, explaining the rationale behind these recommendations and presenting the research evidence supporting the recommendations.

lust the Facts, Ma'am

Health, Safety, and Nutrition

Safety of Vaccines Used for Routine Immunization of US Children: A Systematic Review

http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2014/06/26/peds.2014-1079.abstract

This study, published in Pediatrics, shares results from a systematic review of the literature on the safety of routine vaccines recommended for children in the United States. The new analysis showed that the hepatitis B vaccine does not appear to cause adverse effects, despite what some groups have claimed. The research also again found no link between the MMR vaccine and autism. Furthermore, the polio vaccine was not associated with creating food allergies, as has been claimed, and absolutely no vaccine was linked with causing leukemia or death.

Too Hungry to Learn: Food Insecurity and School Readiness

http://www.childrenshealthwatch.org/publication/too-hungry-to-learn/

These research briefs by Children's HealthWatch (Part 1: Too Hungry to Learn, Part 2: Feeding Our Human Capital) present findings on the harmful impact of food insecurity on health, development, and academic and economic success of young children. They underscore the long term implications of early food insecurity on the US workforce as well as the cost implications for taxpayers.

Adapting Physical Activities to Promote Overall Health and Development: Suggestions for Interventionists and Families

http://yec.sagepub.com/content/10/2/11.full.pdf+html?ijkey=ZKvJr7.rcM4ps&keytype=ref&siteid=spyec
Simple ideas can help all the children in your classroom participate in activities. This article from Young
Exceptional Children shared ideas about how to integrate early learning goals, like social development and
language skills, into motor activities. There's also a list of fun activities that children with and without
disabilities can do anywhere.

Early Childhood Development: The Promise, the Problem, and the Path Forward

http://www.brookings.edu/research/articles/2013/11/25-early-childhood-development-atinc-gustafsson

This article emphasizes the importance of early childhood education and development and suggests an agenda for scaling up early childhood development globally.

Child Hunger on the Rise and Causing Problems in the Classroom

http://www.care2.com/causes/child-hunger-on-the-rise-and-causing-problems-in-the-classroom.html#ixzz2dMJ6dorZ

This short online article briefly summarizes issues regarding child hunger in the classroom and the consequences, as well as funding issues of programs providing food assistance.

The Effect of Poverty on Child Development and Educational Outcomes

http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=psycd_fac

This article examines the effect of poverty on the child's development and educational outcomes, and presents recommendations for improving children's school readiness in programs and policies.

Family Mealtimes Don't Predict Success in School

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/early_years/2013/07/family_mealtimes_dont_predict_success_in_school_study_states. html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+EarlyYears+%28Early+Years%29

This online article summarizes the findings of a recent study suggesting that increased number of families eating together as a single strategy did not have an impact on the academic performance of children or their behavior in school.

Investment in Parks and Recreation is Necessary for Children's Health

http://www.nemours.org/content/dam/nemours/wwwv2/filebox/service/healthy-living/growuphealthy/nhps/policybrief/parksandrec.pdf

This article articulates why state and local policy makers need to invest in parks and recreation services and how communities will benefit greatly from this investment.

See For Yourself

Health, Safety, and Nutrition

Moving Bodies, Building Minds: Foster Preschoolers' Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Through Movement

http://www.naeyc.org/files/yc/file/201109/Moving%20Bodies_Russo_Marigliano_Online_0911.pdf

This article explains how critical thinking and problem-solving skills can be developed in preschoolers through movement. It also offers strategies for executing these movement activities and considerations for children with special needs and connecting with families. Self-study questions, discussion prompts and action steps for using this article in professional development are at http://www.naeyc.org/files/yc/file/201109/NEXT%20YC0911.pdf

Natural Environments: A Letter From a Mother to Friends, Families, and Professionals

http://yec.sagepub.com/content/5/3/21.full.pdf+html

Written by a mother of a boy with Down syndrome, this article from Young Exceptional Children describes how the family made use of routines and activities in their natural environments to support their child's development.

Prevent Body Issues by Talking to Kids About Healthy Food, Not Weight

http://thinkprogress.org/health/2013/06/25/2211491/parents-body-image-childhood-obesity/

This brief article presents the results of a study examining correlations between the eating behaviors of adolescents and family environments. Findings suggest that teens develop fewer body issues and eating problems when family members talk about nutrition rather than weight with their children.

Preventing Childhood Obesity in Early Care and Education Programs

http://cfoc.nrckids.org/StandardView/SpcCol/Preventing_Childhood_Obesity

This second edition of this 2012 document from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Public Health Association, and the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education offers evidence-based best practices for nutrition, physical activity, and screen time in early child care and education programs as well as intervention strategies to prevent obesity.

Diversity: Contrasting Perspectives

http://www.learningseed.com/catalog/diversity-contrasting-perspectives

This video introduces diverse perspectives on various aspects of caregiving that impact health, safety and nutrition in the home and child care settings. It discusses the cultural differences in caregiving practices ranging from feeding to toilet teaching.

Family Style Meals in the Child Care Setting

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nj_s89ydnBs&feature=player_embedded

Presented by the Arizona Department of Health Services, this video clip offers suggestions for providing family style meals in the child care setting and making adaptations according to age, ability, and cultural dimensions.

Feeding Infants in Early Child Care Settings

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWMuxB3eAHw (infants)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xD9eA3BS7Sk (toddlers)

This two-part 2014 video module from the Alabama Department of Public Health reflects content from the most recent version of Caring For Our Children. The slides and narrative focus on promoting breastfeeding, family style dining, and good nutrition for infants and toddlers in child care. Additional materials (pre/post-test, training guide, resources, handouts) is available at http://www.adph.org/healthystart/index.asp?id=6504

Hand Washing and Basic Health Considerations http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clkHWPW54jQ

This 2010 video from the North Carolina Rated License Project illustrates how child care providers can ensure that health and sanitation practices are carried out appropriately throughout the day and discusses specific health considerations for the quality assessment process in North Carolina.

Henry Gets Around http://www2.cde.state.co.us/media/resultsmatter/RMSeries/HenryGetsAround.asp

This clip shows how a child with physical disabilities is able to participate fully in all the activities inside and outside the classroom. He walks, runs, climbs and jumps while being supported by his ankle-foot orthosis and sometimes gets around by using a wheelchair.

How Nutrition and Physical Activity Affect Early Childhood Development

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pp8Jwf1trH0

In this short clip, Chaya Kulkarni, the Director of Infant Mental Health at the Hospital for Sick Children explains the importance of nutrition, exercise, and experience for children's development.

Infant Nutrition in the Child Care Setting http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55P4L3JIrJo

Presented by the Arizona Department of Health Services, this video clip offers suggestions on infant nutrition in positive feeding environments in child care settings that align with that of the home environment and that are appropriate to their development.

Little Kids, Big Questions http://www.zerotothree.org/about-us/funded-projects/parenting-resources/podcast/

Developed by ZERO TO THREE, this series of 12 podcasts offers evidence-based insights into issues that families of infants and toddlers typically face, like nurturing healthy eating habits. In each podcast, an expert explains how to apply research to practice in parents' interactions with their young child. Podcasts and transcripts are available in English and Spanish, along with links to additional resources.

Making Health Easier: Healthy Changes Start in Preschool (English and Spanish)

http://makinghealtheasier.org/EarlyEd

This 2012 video from the Centers for Disease Prevention shows how a preschool teacher, Claudia Mendoza, makes a difference on child obesity in her classroom by teaching her young students about healthy food and physical activity. Additional resources are provided on the web page.

Physical Activity in the Child Care Setting http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-mcKvLKNtk

Presented by the Arizona Department of Health Services, this video clip discusses the importance of physical activity for young children and offers suggestions on implementing activities in childcare settings. It also includes considerations for children with disabilities.

Preventing Childhood Obesity Through Active Play and Nutrition Education

http://centerfornutrition.org/teach-kids-

nutrition/?utm_source=Build+ECE+News%2C+March+5%2C+2014&utm_campaign=Build+news&utm_medium=email

The Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition has developed this series of seven, brief instructional videos, in English and in Spanish, on how to engage children in active play and educate children about nutrition during meals. Sample titles are Movement and Motor Skills, Encouraging Physical Activity, Teaching Taste, Texture and Color, and Teaching Portion Size. A workbook with reflection questions and other resources is available at http://centerfornutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Workbook-English-04-09-15.docx

Promoting Physical Activity for Infants and Toddlers in Early Childhood

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEkm_cSDdek (infants)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTZfJxb7F7g (toddlers)

This two-part 2014 video module from the Alabama Department of Public Health reflects content from the most recent version of Caring For Our Children. The slides and narrative take a developmental approach to promoting physical activity and optimal physical development for infants (part 1) and toddlers (part 2) in child care. A Training Kit of additional materials (pre/post-test, training guide, resources, handouts) is available at http://www.adph.org/healthystart/index.asp?id=6548

Find It Online

Health, Safety, and Nutrition

The Rules of Safe Sleep http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Room to Breathe/

This 2012 video from the Texas Department of Child and Protective Services presents the A-B-C's of safe sleep: Alone, Back, Crib, and Cool, which can reduce the risk of sudden infant death or accidental suffocation.

Safe Sleep for Your Baby http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29sLucYtvpA

This 2012 video from the National Institute of Child Health and Development offers suggestions and advice on creating a safe sleep environment and reducing risk of SIDS, and other sleep-related causes of infant death.

University of Northern Iowa Empowering Preschool Quality

http://www.uni.edu/coe/regentsctr/epq/search (to view clips online)

This website makes available a series of video clips that focus on health status, health practices, physical activities, and many other topics related to preschool age children. A set of DVDs with all the clips is available for \$10 at http://www.uni.edu/coe/regentsctr/epq/content/dvd-order-form

Video Library (physical development, environment/environmental hazards, play, child abuse/maltreatment) http://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/videolibrary.shtm

This video library from the Early Childhood Education and Training Program contains short video clips on a variety of topics including physical development, environmental hazards, and child abuse and maltreatment.

Well Fed: Nourishing Our Children for a Lifetime http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wH2pJRIy0-U

This clip by KET presents a short excerpt from Well Fed, showing how some Kentuckians are working toward promoting healthy food as an alternative to processed foods for children and families.

Allergies and Food Sensitivities http://fnic.nal.usda.gov/diet-and-disease/allergies-and-food-sensitivities
This US Department of Education website contains links to information and various resources on food allergies.

America's Playgrounds: Safety Report Card http://playgroundsafety.org/sites/default/files/report_card_form.pdf
This checklist from the National Program for Playground Safety provides a mechanism for evaluating play areas
in four categories: supervision, age-appropriate design, fall surfacing, and equipment maintenance.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention http://www.cdc.gov/

The CDC website provides information and resources on various health and safety issues, ranging from preventing infectious diseases to safe food handling practices.

Child and Adult Care Food Program http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/care/

This US Department of Agriculture site assists child and adult programs, institutions and child care facilities in making nutritious foods accessible. The website contains links to useful resources, publications and menus, meal patterns. Resources are targeted to types of programs (e.g., afterschool programs, child care centers).

Choose My Plate http://www.choosemyplate.gov/

Intended for a range of audience including educators, health care professionals and parents, this website contains information on healthy eating, weight management, and physical activity. It also contains practical resources, materials, and games for parents and educators that can be used to educate children in a fun manner.

Curriculum Map for Child Health, Safety and Nutrition

http://www.kirkwood.edu/pdf/uploaded/1163/ece_133_clad_early__childhood_prog__curr__map_2%5B2%5D.pdf This website provides an example of how one community college infused an emphasis on cultural, linguistic, and ability diversity throughout their health, safety and nutrition course. The curriculum map identifies media, guest speakers, resources, activities, and assignments.

Education and Training on Feeding Your Children (EAT) http://ehs.siu.edu/eat/

Intended for parents and childhood professionals, the EAT website aims to provide educational materials and resources as well as strategies for better feeding of young children.

From Playpen to Playground—The Importance of Physical Play for the Motor Development of Young Children http://www.playscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/Playpen-to-Playground.pdf

This review describes and interprets research on the effects of physical play, from birth to age five, at home and school, across all areas of development. The document is intended to inform the professional practice of teachers, caregivers, and policymakers who advocate for play or who strive to include physical and outdoor play more often and more effectively in their schools and centers. It is also intended for parents who are trying to enhance the health and physical development of their own children. The review includes research-based guidance for professionals in inclusive classrooms and settings, and addresses adaptations in play environments and adult play interactions to meet the needs of children with disabilities.

"Go Out and Play!" Kit for Early Childhood Educators

http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/ccp_pdfs/GOP_kit.pdf

This kit was designed to help educators monitor childhood development during play activities. It contains information about monitoring developmental milestones, suggestions for a safe and successful activity day, tips about talking to parents if you suspect a child has a developmental delay, and a special pullout section with activities to share with parents for at-home play.

Grow It, Try It, Like It! Preschool Fun With Fruits and Vegetables

http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Resources/growit.html?utm_source=BUILD+ECE+News%2C+November+27%2C+2013&utm_campaign=Build+news&utm_medium=email

This is a garden-themed nutrition education kit for child care center staff that introduces children to three fruits peaches, strawberries, and cantaloupe and three vegetables - spinach, sweet potatoes, and crookneck squash. The kit includes seven booklets, a CD-ROM with supplemental information, and a DVD with Cool Puppy Pup's Picnic and Lunch Parties. Each set of lessons contains hands-on activities, planting activities, and nutrition education activities that introduce MyPlate.

Health Tips for Families Series http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/health/center/health-literacy-family-engagement/family-education/tipsheetfamily.htm

These fact sheets provide information about important health issues, including eating, breathing, safety, and nutrition. They are available in English and Spanish and may be downloaded individually or as an entire series.

Healthy Child Care America http://www.healthychildcare.org/

The Healthy Child Care America website provides information and resources regarding early education and development of young children for families, childhood educators, health care professionals, and state leaders. Online modules are available for professional development as well as a resource library.

Healthy Children http://www.healthychildren.org/english/Pages/default.aspx

This website by the American Academy of Pediatrics offers families and caregivers information on various aspects of caregiving such as healthy living, safety, and prevention. Resources are organized by age, from prenatal to young adult. (NOTE: If asked for a username and password, click CANCEL and you'll be redirected to the site)

Healthy Eating for Preschoolers http://www.nal.usda.gov/wicworks/Topics/Preschooler.pdf This guide offers simple suggestions and a daily food plan, in both English and Spanish.

Healthy From the Start: How Feeding Nurtures Your Young Child's Body, Heart and Mind

http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/health-nutrition/health_eng.pdf (English) http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/health-nutrition/health_sp.pdf (Spanish)

This visually engaging booklet highlights the cultural and individual dimensions of feeding, as well as general information about the feeding needs of infants and toddlers. Available in English and Spanish.

Healthy Habits for Life Resource Kit http://kidshealth.org/classroom/index.jsp?Grade=cc&Section=hhfl

This kit, supported by the Nemours Health and Prevention Services, is designed to help families and professionals incorporate healthy physical activity and nutrition habits into everyday routines. Content, which is available in English and Spanish, has three sections: Get Moving, Food & Drink to Grow On, and Every Day Is a Healthy Day, includes poems and songs, posters, activities, reproducibles, and family newsletters.

Heartland Equity and Inclusion Project: Health, Safety and Nutrition in Early Childhood Syllabus http://www.heartland.edu/heip/faculty/chld202.jsp

This website shares a syllabus and other course materials from the health, safety, and nutrition course at Heartland Community College in Normal, IL. Resources such as field experience assignments, case studies, and handouts reflect Heartland's emphasis on cultural, linguistic, and ability diversity.

Let's Move! http://www.healthykidshealthyfuture.org/

The Let's Move! website aims to promote healthy eating and physical activity. It contains information on food and nutrition, and ways for families, schools and communities to become more active. Materials, including a technical assistance manual for trainers and faculty members, address five topics: Nurturing Healthy Eaters, Providing Healthy Beverages, Getting Kids Moving, Limiting Screen Time, and Supporting Breastfeeding.

Making the Link Between Health and School Readiness

http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/health/link-between

This Head Start website highlights the evidence-based connections between health and each domain of development by provide multiple examples.

Most Popular Resources on Health and Nutrition

http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/health-nutrition/professional-resources-on.html

This site contains various resources on health and nutrition for young children, some of which are in Spanish.

National Center on Health http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/health

The web page contains links to information and resources on topics such as nutrition and physical activity, child safety and injury prevention, health literacy, oral health, and healthy environments.

National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Education http://nrckids.org/

Targeted at families, early educators and child care providers, policy makers, and health care professionals, the NRC website provides access to resources and information regarding health and safety guidelines, state licensing and regulation, and child care. The website is also available in Spanish. Resources at this site range from a set of A-Z child care information links and a section on oral health in child care and early education.

New Strategies to Improve Food Marketing to Children

http://www.rwjf.org/en/about-rwjf/newsroom/newsroom-content/2013/09/strategies-to-improve-food-marketing-to-children.html?cid=XEM_A7540

This webpage contains a brief commentary on unhealthy food and beverage marketing to children and key recommendations for improving food marketing to children. Links to related articles on food and beverage marketing are also included.

Nutrition & Wellness Tips for Young Children: Provider Handbook for the Child and Adult Care Food Program http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/handbookslides.pdf

This handbook, intended to guide child care providers regarding creative and healthy ideas for nutrition and wellness of young children, also contains practical tips for planning meals and activities.

Oral Health in Child Care and Early Education

This page explains the importance of oral health in early care and education and presents an overview of standards for practice on various topics such as oral health practices, education and training, feeding and nutrition, policies, and licensing and state responsibilities.

Recommended Child Care Health and Safety Resources

http://www.healthychildcare.org/pdf/health&safetyresources.pdf

This document contains brief descriptors of various child care health and safety resources. The resources are organized in three categories: a) websites/electronic resources, b) print materials and c) research/evidence.

Resources on Health and Safety in Early Child Care

http://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/Resources_Health_Safety_ECC.pdf

This document contains a list of resources on various topics about health and safety in early child care. These include general health, accident prevention, allergies, physical development, and nutrition.

Safe Infant Sleep Practices http://www.nichd.nih.gov/sts/Pages/default.aspx

Visit the Safe to Sleep® website to view or order FREE educational materials, read myths and facts about safe infant sleep, find tummy time tips, and discover other helpful resources related to reducing the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Recently posted materials are available in English and Spanish.

Safe Kids http://www.safekids.org/

This website partners with coalitions in the United States and international organizations to reduce unintentional injury in children. Resources and information for parents, educators, and safety professionals are available on a variety of risk areas in the home, on the road, and in sports and play.

Safe Sleep http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,4562,7-124-5453_7124_57836---,00.html

This webpage contains a library of video clips and resources on providing safe environments for babies to sleep. Information is also available in Spanish and Arabic.

Safe Sleep Practices and SIDS/Suffocation Risk Reduction

http://cfoc.nrckids.org/StandardView/SpcCol/Safe_sleep

This webpage contains national standards for various safe sleep issues such as practices, providing a safe sleep environment, education and training, polices and other related issues. Within each standard, links to related standards and related references are provided.

Sanitation Policies and Procedures http://cfoc.nrckids.org/StandardView/9.2.3.10

This chapter presents an overview of the sanitation policies and procedures and the rationale for these policies. Links to related standards are provided.

Supporting Outdoor Play and Exploration for Infants and Toddlers

http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/docs/ehs-ta-paper-14-outdoor-play.pdf

This technical assistance paper explores the benefits of outdoor time for infants and toddlers and provides suggestions for creating outdoor play spaces, safety considerations, and strategies and policies that support this important part of quality infant-toddler programming.

Tips for Keeping Children Safe: A Developmental Guide

http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/health/center/safety-injury-prevention/safe-healthy-environments/keep-children-safe.html

This 2014 resource describes daily routines for children within four age groups (infants, mobile infants, toddlers, and preschoolers) and provides safety tips that specifically address the developmental needs of children in a specific age group, as well as tips that apply to all children. It was developed by the Office of Head Start's National Center on Health for early childhood staff working with young children in classroom environments.

US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) http://www.cpsc.gov/

The purpose of the CPSC is to protect the public from risks of injury or deaths that are associated with consumer products. The website contains information on various topics such as recalls, safety education, regulations, laws, and standards, as well as research and statistics.