INFECTION CONTROL IN THE CDC

Because you are working closely with people it is necessary to follow certain health and safety precautions in order to protect you and your clients.

1. Use gloves when performing oral exams and during any invasive procedure of the oral cavity (such as dysphagia assessment or treatment). To protect clients against infection do not touch your pencil or furniture when wearing gloves. Gloves are available in every therapy room.

2. Wash your hands after removing gloves and before and after working with EACH client. Avoid touching your hands to your mouth, eyes, or nose when working with clients.

3. All toys and materials must be washed with soap and water after use. Other equipment may be washed with a bleach solution.

4. When working with any child or adult who drools or mouths materials the items must be washed or discarded. Sani-wipes are provided in each therapy room for use on tabletops and any other surface that may have been soiled. Sani-wipes for hands are also available in each therapy room. Tongue depressors and similar items should be broken and dropped directly into the wastebasket.

5. The clinician should note any unusual rash or cut on the client and consult with the supervisor regarding continuation of the session. Similarly, if a client appears ill or unusually fatigued, the supervisor should be consulted.

6. Cuts or scratches on the clinician’s hands should be covered. Long fingernails are inappropriate for clinical work.

7. Be informed about communicable diseases. Knowledge about transmission prevention is one of the first steps in defense against disease.

METHOD OF HANDWASHING

- Use SOAP and RUNNING WATER
- RUB your hands vigorously
- WASH ALL SURFACES, including back of hands, wrists, between fingers, under fingernails.
- RINSE well
- DRY hands with a paper towel
- Turn off the water using a PAPER TOWEL instead of bare hands