

Pinellas County License Board for Children's Centers & Family Day Care Homes

Our mission is to protect and promote the health, safety, and mental development of children cared for in children's centers and family child care homes in Pinellas County

Patsy Buker, Executive Director
Elise Minkoff, Chairman



MEMORANDUM

To: Children's Center Owners and Directors

From: Patsy Buker, Executive Director
Jorie Massarsky, Environmental Supervisor II

Date: June 12, 2012

Subject: Decrease in Regulations for Children's Centers

Please be advised that the Pinellas County Licensing Board approved a change in regulations for Children's Centers in Pinellas County at the June 11, 2012 Board Meeting.

This regulation is found on page 47 of the current Licensing Regulations Governing Pinellas County Children's Centers.

“VI. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

F. Bathroom Facilities

4. For infants one year of age, a bathroom must be adjoining each infant room and may be shared only with other infant rooms.”

The Board voted to remove the above requirement for a bathroom (toilet) adjoining each infant room.

Rationale: Adjoining bathrooms for infants are not typically being used. New cloth diapers have disposable inserts that do not require a toilet for disposal. The removal of this requirement may encourage additional infant care that otherwise would have been prohibited by a lack of an adjoining bathroom. Center staff members have access to bathrooms in other areas of the children's center.

Implementation Date: July 15, 2012

Impact on Children's Centers:

A bathroom (containing a toilet with or without a sink) is no longer required to be in or adjacent to a classroom used by one to two year old toddlers. However, infants still need to be kept separate from children two years of age and older. If a toddler under two years of age is being potty trained, the children's center will need to retain a toilet and sink in or adjacent to a toddler classroom for this purpose. It may not be used by any child over two years of age.

This does not change the toilet and sink requirements for capacity. There must be at least two toilets and two sinks for the first 1 to 36 children, and one toilet and sink for each 18 children thereafter. If the toilet and/or sink that is part of the toddler classroom was used in this calculation, then either or both must remain functional.

Finally, this decrease does not in any way change the number of sinks required in any infant room. There must be a sink in the diaper changing area and a separate sink in the food preparation area. Technical assistance will be provided as to how to safely remove or disable a toilet. You may choose to remove or disable the toilet and retain the sink for staff hand washing.

