



QUARTERLY NEWS!



Child Care Licensing Program Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

Fall 2019
Volume 2
Issue 1

CHILDREN'S CENTERS FALL EDITION



Let's Save A Life

By Jorie Massarsky, Supervisor, Centers

Each year, one of the saddest statistics we hear is that some children have died because they were inadvertently left in cars or vans for extended periods of time. While we all live busy lives with much on our minds, it is our duty to do everything we can to protect our children.

The Florida Legislature enacted legislation that states that information regarding being a Distracted Driver be given out to all families that utilize child care in Florida two times a year, both in September and April. The Department of Children and Families recently updated the flier, to make it similar to the Influenza Brochure in that there is a place for each parent to sign and date receipt.

There are various ways to show compliance. The signing page can be retained and put in each child's file. Any child enrolled in your program in September should have a page and any child enrolled in your program in April should have a page. Some may have two, others just one. You also could post the flier and have each child's parent/guardian sign for receipt of the information in both September and again in April. Your Licensing Specialist will be looking for evidence of receipt for the Distracted Driver flier when they do your annual children's records inspection beginning October 2019, and then again when they do your random sample, if after April, 2020. Please determine which system will work for your program, and make evidence of compliance easiest for your Licensing Specialist to determine.



While we all find additional paperwork cumbersome, if we can save just one child's life by doing this, it will certainly be worthwhile. We have included a copy of the Distracted Driver flier in this newsletter and it is also available on our website, pclb.org under Children's Center Forms, Children's Records Forms. It is also on page 4 of this newsletter for your convenience.

Thank you for doing all you can to keep the children of Florida safe.

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With Faith Bornoff, M.Ed. Executive Director



It's that time again! Back to school marks a new beginning for many of us and sometimes it also marks a change in the world of Child Care Regulation. Recently, DCF proposed some new regulations and have now adopted those pertaining to Home Child Care and After School programs. These changes will be presented to the Pinellas County License Board and adopted into Pinellas law at our September Board meeting. A summary of changes will be shared with all Directors and Providers and Technical Assistance for these new regulations will be given through March of 2020. Please note, there are no new regulations for Children's Centers at this time. DCF did propose changes, but they have not made it into law. We will keep you posted should this change.

I also wanted to take the time to remind you that your program could receive an inspection at any time of day, any day your program is open for business. Although our office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, our Licensing Specialists work outside of those hours/days whenever needed to ensure all programs and complaints are properly monitored. It is advised that you provide your Licensing Specialist with a schedule of your closures for the year or call the office when your program will be closed unexpectedly. Your Licensing Specialist also has the right to conduct interviews, collect paperwork or make copies of paperwork, take photographs, take videos, or ask for copies of photographs or videos pertaining to an incident or inspection. All confidential information collected is kept in a confidential file at our office and only redacted copies are subject to public records requests.

The Pinellas County Licensing Board wishes to partner with you to ensure the best possible environment for our children. If you have any questions or want to discuss any aspect of the regulations pertaining to child care, please do not hesitate to call our office. Here's to a safe and successful school year!

Clarification of Infant Care Training

By Jorie Massarsky, Supervisor, Centers

It takes a special person to work with our little ones! Infants and toddlers have different needs and wants than preschool age children. We have specific requirements in our county to ensure that there is quality staff that works with these very precious individuals and that they understand the level of care that is required and what is developmentally appropriate.

The DCF Infant Toddler Training Module used to be 10 hours and our requirement was that anyone who works with infant and toddlers attends this course within 90 days of starting with this age group. This would include directors, classroom teachers, floaters and substitutes. The Infant/Toddler 10-Hour Module had to show as In-Service with a date within that 90-day timeframe. You could, of course, then choose to test on this module to satisfy your PART

2 requirement. While most of what was said above is still true, about two years ago, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) restructured the Part 2 courses. Instead of each age group being 10 hours and incorporating the Developmentally Appropriate Practices portion, it was decided that DAP should be split out as a 5-hour Module, and then each age group would also be a 5-hour Module. This way, you only had to attend the DAP once.



We therefore tried to address this in our regulations by stating that *“child care staff caring for infants shall attend the entire Department of Children and Family Services’ specialized training course, Infant and Toddler Appropriate Practices.”*

“We have specific requirements in our county to ensure that there is quality staff that works with these very precious individuals and that they understand the level of care that is required and what is developmentally appropriate.”

What this means is, if you are new to the industry, you need to take the 5-hour UDAP and the 5-hour Infant/Toddler Modules, and they need to both show as In-Service within 90 days of the first time you are in an infant or toddler classroom. If you have been in the field and have a Part 2 completed already but it is not the Infant/Toddler Module, you only need to attend the 5-hour Infant/Toddler Module since you’ve already done the DAP in your Part 2. The word “entire” was meant to convey that you need to attend whatever training you could to satisfy the Part 2 requirement. If you only take the 5-hour Infant/Toddler Module and do not have another Part 2 course, you will never get a “YES” under Part 2 training.

We hope that this clarifies the requirement. We value those who choose to work with this most vulnerable population and appreciate the dedication and patience that it takes – but at the end of the day – what is better than to see that first smile, that first step, or to feel that precious bond that infant and caregiver develop?



What to Do About the Flu in Child Care Facilities

By Kevin Baker, Epidemiology

When an attendee or staff member at a child-care facility (CCF) gets the flu, it puts everyone around them at risk of being infected as well. With flu season right around the corner, it is important that everyone take the right precautions to prevent the spread of flu. The flu, formally known as influenza, is a very contagious respiratory illness caused by flu germs that are spread by someone who is infected while coughing, sneezing, talking, or laughing. The germs can land in the eyes, nose or mouth of others or on surfaces that people touch often, like doorknobs. If someone touches their eyes, nose, or mouth with flu germs on their hands, they can get sick.

What does an illness caused by the flu look like? **Flu-like illness is defined as having a fever of at least 100 degrees and a cough or sore throat**, but some may get a runny nose, body aches and headaches, too. Flu infections range from mild to very severe, with some people having to be hospitalized for days to weeks. Young children are more at risk of complications from the flu, which can include pneumonia, brain dysfunction, ear infections, and rarely, death.

What can CCF operators do to fight the flu? CCFs are at an elevated risk of a flu outbreak due to the nature of the setting—multiple children in a room for hours at a time touching doorknobs, toys, tables and chairs, as well as each other. To help reduce the spread of flu, CCF operators can promote that staff and attendees get the annual flu vaccine, wash their hands often with soap and warm water, and cough into the bend of their arm or a tissue. The flu vaccine changes every year to provide as best protection to the population as possible, so everyone aged 6 months and older should receive it as early as October each year for it to be the most effective.

“To help reduce the spread of flu, CCF operators can promote that staff and attendees get the annual flu vaccine, wash their hands often with soap and warm water, and cough into the bend of their arm or a tissue.”



What do you do if you find an attendee or staff who has flu-like symptoms or was diagnosed with the flu? Flu-like illness and influenza outbreaks are reportable to the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County (DOH-Pinellas). Flu and flu-like illness outbreaks are classified as two attendees and/or staff with flu-like illness and/or flu diagnosis by a health care professional.

**FLU
SEASON
AHEAD**

Steps to take if you have more than one case of flu or flu-like illness:

1. **Contact DOH-Pinellas at 727-824-6932 to report the outbreak and receive consultation on how to stop the spread of the disease.**
2. **Make sure ill staff and attendees are excluded from the facility until fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication.**
3. **Create a line list of all ill staff and attendees and their contact information so DOH-Pinellas can follow up with them.**
4. **Begin cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces in the facility, starting in the room(s) where the ill individuals spent time beginning the day before their symptoms started.**
5. **Send a letter home to parents and staff and post a notice at the entry of the facility about the ongoing illness.**
6. **Educate staff, attendees and parents on proper hand-washing and cough etiquette.**
7. **Monitor the facility for one week after the last date an ill attendee or staff attended while contagious.**

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Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County



Fall Centers Edition



A change in daily routine, lack of sleep, stress, fatigue, cell phone use, and simple distractions are some things parents experience and can be contributing factors as to why children have been left unknowingly in vehicles...



Developed by:
The Office of Child Care Regulation

www.myflfamilies.com/childcare
CF/PI 175-12, May 2018

When life happens...Don't be a
**DISTRACTED
ADULT**



Never leave
your child alone
in a car, not even
for a minute.

FACTS ABOUT HEATSTROKE:

It only takes a car **10 minutes to heat up 20** degrees and become deadly.

Even with a **window cracked**, the temperature inside a vehicle can cause heatstroke.

The body temperature of a child increases **3 to 5 times faster** than an adult's body.



⚠️ PREVENTION TIPS:

- Never leave your child alone in a car and call 911 if you see any child locked in a car!
- Make a habit of checking the front and back seat of the car before you walk away.
- Be especially mindful during hectic or busy times, schedule or route changes, and periods of emotional stress or chaos.
- Create reminders by putting something in the back seat that you will need at work, school or home such as a briefcase, purse, cell phone or your left shoe.
- Keep a stuffed animal in the baby's car seat and place it on the front seat as a reminder when the baby is in the back seat.
- Set a calendar reminder on your electronic device to make sure you dropped your child off at child care.
- Make it a routine to always notify your child's child care provider in advance if your child is going to be late or absent; ask them to contact you if your child hasn't arrived as scheduled.

During the 2018 legislative session, a new law was passed that requires child care facilities, family day care homes and large family child care homes to provide parents, during the months of April and September each year, with information regarding the potential for distracted adults to fail to drop off a child at the facility/home and instead leave them in the adult's vehicle upon arrival at the adult's destination.



My signature below verifies receipt of the Distracted Adult brochure

Parent/Guardian:

Child's Name:

Date:

Please complete and return this portion of the brochure to your child care provider, to maintain the receipt in their records.

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Fall Centers Edition



RECORD KEEPING FOR CHILDREN'S CENTERS



Is a four and a half (4 1/2) hour training comprised of an overview of regulations regarding record keeping including personnel, children, and facility records. Participants will receive a training packet that includes required and optional forms and learn practical ideas for setting up and maintaining files in order to be in compliance with regulations. This training is appropriate for prospective or new owners/directors and as an update for current child care personnel with record keeping responsibilities. A certificate documenting four and a half (4.5) hours of annual in-

REGISTRATION FEE: \$40.00 Prepaid non-refundable fee due prior to training

TIME: 8:30 AM. – 1:00 PM

**LOCATION: Pinellas County Health Department, 8751 Ulmerton Road, Largo
2nd floor Conference Room**



DIRECTOR'S ORIENTATION FOR INFANT CARE



Is a three (3) hour training comprised of regulations pertaining specifically to infant care and best practices in caring for children from birth to 2 years of age. Participants will receive a training packet that includes a copy of the Infant Standards, required and sample forms, and brochures. This training is required for directors who plan to start an infant program. A certificate documenting three (3) hours of annual inservice training will be issued.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$25.00 Prepaid non-refundable fee due prior to training

TIME: 8:30 AM. – 1:00 PM

**LOCATION: Pinellas County Health Department, 8751 Ulmerton Road, Largo Florida
2nd floor Conference Room**



Telephone registration will not be accepted.

To reserve your space in the desired training, submit the registration form with check or money order made payable to Pinellas County Health Department. If the training is full when your registration is received, you will be contacted.
Seating is limited and child care is not available.

Return the completed form and fee to: Child Care Licensing Program, 8751 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33771

Call the CCLP office prior to the training dates if you need to reschedule in order to avoid repaying the registration fee. Any person with a disability requiring reasonable accommodations can call the CCLP office no later than two (2) weeks prior to the training.

Children's Center Training Registration Form

Registration form and prepaid non-refundable fee due prior to training

Record Keeping for Children's Centers \$40.00 Director's Orientation for Infant Care \$25.00

Name (Please Print): _____ Telephone: _____

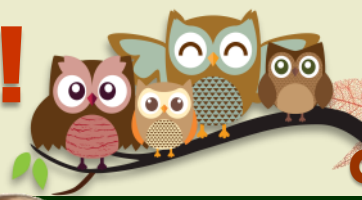
Center Name: _____

Street, City, & Zip Code: _____

Date of Training: _____ Fee Enclosed: _____

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Fall
Centers Edition



The Boppy Company Recalls Infant Head and Neck Support Accessories Due to Suffocation Hazard



The Boppy Company toll-free at 888-772-6779 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. MT Monday through Friday, email at info@boppy.com or online at www.boppy.com and click on important recall information at the top of the page for more information.



Lidl Recalls Wooden Grasping Toys Due to Choking Hazard



Dorel Juvenile Group USA Recalls Inclined Sleepers Due to Safety Concerns About Inclined Sleep Products



Call Dorel toll-free at 877-657-9546 or text Dorel at 812-373-6673 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, email at inclinesleeperrecall@djgusa.com, or online www.safety1st.com and click on "Safety Notices" for more information.

Website: <http://www.lidl.com>
Phone: (844) 747-5435

Britax Recalls Modified Thru-Bolt Axles for Use with BOB Jogging Strollers Due to Fall and Injury Hazards



Britax toll-free at 888-427-4829 from 9 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. ET Monday through Thursday, or between 9 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. ET on Friday or via email at US-customerservice@britax.com

Stokke Recalls Infant Steps Bouncers Due to Fall Hazard



Stokke by email at info-usa@stokke.com toll-free at 877-978-6553 Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET or visit www.stokke.com and click on the link for product recalls for more information.

H&M Recalls Children's Pajamas Due to Violation of Federal Flammability Standard

H&M toll-free at 855-466-7467 from 7 a.m. to 12 a.m. CT any day of the week or online at www.hm.com and click on Legal & Privacy and then Recalled Items for more information.



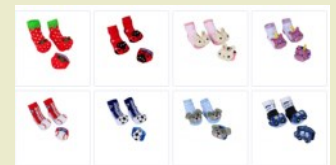
Super Jumper Recalls Trampolines Due to Fall and Injury Hazards

Super Jumper toll-free at 866-757-3636 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday, email at recall@superjumperinc.com or online at www.superjumperinc.com and click on the "Recall" link for more information.



London Bridge Recalls Sock and Wrist Rattle Sets Due to Choking Hazard

London Bridge at 800-653-5048 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, email at support@maisonchiconline.com or online at www.maisonchiconline.com and click on Product Recalls at the bottom of the page for more information.



CPSC Consumer Information Hotline
Contact us at this toll-free number if you have questions about a recall:
800-638-2772 (TTY 301-595-7054) Times: 8 am – 5:30 pm ET Messages can be left anytime
Call to get product safety and other agency information and to report unsafe products.
<https://www.cpsc.gov/>



Creative Corner

Fun, educational activities kids LOVE

5 Little Pumpkins

This Halloween, kids can have fun singing the 5 Little Pumpkins song with their own lift-the-flap-pumpkin craft. As each verse is sung, kids can lift the pumpkin's flap and see the number. They practice number recognition and counting while they sing.



Supplies:

- 2 pieces of black cardstock
- 1 piece of orange cardstock
- 1 piece of brown cardstock
- 1 piece of white cardstock
- white chalk
- craft glue
- scissors
- stapler (adult)

"I like using cardstock for all our crafts because it holds up to the kids' glue and has nice color."

Five little pumpkins sitting on the gate

(Hold up 5 fingers)

The first one said, "Oh, my it's getting late"

(Hold up thumb)

The second one said, "There are witches in the air"

(Hold up index finger)

The third one said, "But I don't care"

(Hold up middle finger)

The fourth one said, "Let's run and run and run"

(Hold up ring finger)

The fifth one said, "I'm ready for some fun"

(Hold up pinky)

Ooooo! Went the wind, and out went the light

(Blow through hands, then clap)

And the five little pumpkins rolled out of sight!

(Roll hands behind back)



Child Care Licensing Program

Florida Department of Health in Pinellas

8751 Ulmerton Road, Suite 2000

Largo, Florida 33771

(727) 507-4857

pclb.org

Mission

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.

Vision

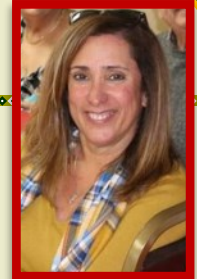
Every child has access to quality child care and education in an environment that values diversity.

Values

**Commitment
Integrity
Quality**

Staff Spotlight

Maria Villarreal, Licensing Specialist



During my college years in my home town of Miami, I got my start in child care. I have been a preschool teacher, an Assistant Director, and then a Director. 26 years ago, our family decided to leave Miami and move to Dunedin. I loved our new town and I was fortunate enough to get a job at St. Cecilia, where my children attended school.

I have worked with Child Care Licensing in Pinellas County for 14 years. The most fulfilling aspect of my career is knowing that I am doing my part to keep preschool age children in Pinellas County safe.

My husband Kiko and I have been married for 33 years! I have a step-daughter, a daughter, and a son plus 3 grandchildren! My chocolate lab, Bailee, is 14 years old and very loveable. In my free time I love eating out, kayaking, traveling, and yoga.

When I think about what makes a Child Care Center great, it's qualities like nurturing teachers with a passion for children, willingness to follow child care regulations, and a clean, organized facility.

Here's to an excellent year ahead!

