

## CHILDREN'S CENTERS FUN in the SUN SUMMER EDITION

### Keeping Food Safe In Classrooms By Jorie Massarsky, Supervisor, Centers

**W**arm weather has arrived, so it's more important than ever that food brought to and/or served at the children's center is kept safe. Food that is "out of temperature" can spoil and cause illness. Many children's centers use refrigerators other than one that is in the kitchen. Classroom refrigerators are often used to store bottles, baby food, lunch boxes, and perishable snacks. How do you know that the food you have on hand is safe? You must have an accurate alcohol thermometer, designed to measure cold storage temperature inside each refrigerator and freezer unit. Thermometers must show a reading of 41 degrees Fahrenheit or below and thermometers in freezers must show a reading of 0 degrees Fahrenheit or below. The thermometer should be located in the part of the unit that would be the warmest, probably in the front or in the door and be readily accessible. Your Licensing Specialist will be checking the temperature of all **classroom refrigerators and freezers** and documenting the temperatures they record. If thermometer temperature readings are higher than specified above, you are going to be asked to adjust the unit setting until it reaches and maintains the required reading. Food may have to be discarded if it is determined that spoilage has occurred due to being kept too warm. It would be a good idea to check each and every refrigerator and freezer in your children's center and make sure that first, there is a thermometer; second, the thermometer is



**Thermometers in refrigerators must show a reading of 41 degrees Fahrenheit or below and thermometers in freezers must show a reading of zero degrees Fahrenheit or below.**

working; and third, that the temperatures being shown are within acceptable parameters. If there are refrigerators in classrooms that are not being used, it would be best to remove them, so that someone does not mistakenly put something in it. Also, remember that food brought from home that requires storage at a certain temperature, must be kept at that temperature. If refrigerators are not available for lunch boxes, then ice packs or insulated

#### Do You Know When Your Safety Training Expires?

Please remember it is only good for one year and needs to be taken on or before the date of expiration. Evidence of the training can be a certificate, an agenda with staff names on it, etc.



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### The Art of Communication

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we communicate electronically more and more frequently. As you can see, this newsletter is sent to the email that we have on file for you. However, we do not have emails for everyone we need to reach.

Often, an email address is tied to a particular Director's name and if that Director leaves, we can no longer contact the children's center. It is much better use a generic email such as: **Director@JoriesChildrensCenter.com**. That way if you have changes in personnel, there will be no loss of communication because the email address remained the same.

*Please look at the email that you provided to us – it is on your renewal application – and then let us know if you would like to change it. We will happily do so!*

*Jorie*



### With Faith Bornoff, M.Ed. Executive Director



**J**une 1st marks the beginning of Hurricane season and the time to prepare is before the storm! The staff at PCLB has produced an Emergency Booklet to aid providers in preparing for a hurricane. This publication was sent to you via email last week. Please look it over for important information including the number to call and what information to have on hand during a declared "State of Emergency," emergency regulations that are in effect during a declared "State of Emergency," and what paperwork you will want to collect and protect in the event of a storm. We hope this information proves helpful and should there be a weather event this year, we will all be better prepared! If ever you have any questions regarding the procedures for storms as they relate to the child care regulations or the required "aftermath reporting," please feel free to call me at 727-275-6451.

## Splish Splash!

By Jorie Massarsky

**S**ummertime is when we all want to incorporate fun water activities into our day to combat our Florida heat. We have had some regulation changes so we wanted to make sure that everyone is aware of swimming and other water activity guidelines.

The Department of Children and Families has given us very specific direction on what can and cannot be used. First, wading pools are not allowed to be used at children's centers. This also includes any type of water apparatus like a slip and slide. If water collects and doesn't drain away immediately, it cannot be used. Splash pads that allow water to gather may not be used either. The idea is that children cannot have the chance to sit in any amount of unfiltered water. As long as it



is constantly flowing, and not collecting it can be used. Sprinklers and water tables are excellent ways to incorporate water play on a hot day.

If children are taken to a swimming pool that is more than three feet deep, or use a beach or lake area, the following requirements must be met:

- Children younger than 3 years of age may not participate.
- There must be one person with current lifeguard certification present. This person can also meet the requirement of an extra person, out of ratio on all field trips.
- There must be an adult lookout on the pool deck, responsible for the surveillance of the pool area.
- Any swimming pool that is more than six feet in width, length or diameter must be provided with a ring buoy and rope, a rescue tube, or a throwing line and a shepherd's hook. Child care personnel must be trained on the use of this equipment, and have evidence in their file of this training.

"Children can drown in as little as one inch of water and drowning is the leading cause of death for children under the age of 5 in the state of Florida."

- Supervisory ratios, in the pool area, excluding the look out are:
  - **3 year olds – 1 supervisory staff to 2 children**
  - **4 to 6 year olds – 1 supervisory staff to 4 children**
  - **7-12 year olds – 1 supervisory staff to 10 children**

Children can drown in as little as one inch of water, and is the leading cause of death for children under the age of 5 in the state of Florida. For this reason, constant and active supervision must be maintained when any child is in or around water. During water play or swimming activities, for preschoolers, the supervising adult must be within arm's length providing "touch supervision". Touch supervision does not apply to school age children.



*We know that you join us in  
anticipating a happy,  
healthy, hot and safe summer!*

# QUARTERLY NEWS!



Centers  
Edition



Child Care Licensing Program  
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

## 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



**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  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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 pro-

**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  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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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## Children's Sleep Sacks Recalled



Children's Sleep Sacks Recalled by Gildan Active-wear Due to Violation of Federal Flammability Standard; Sold Exclusively at AmericanApparel.com (Recall Alert)

[www.americanapparel.com](http://www.americanapparel.com) click on the Product Recall link located at the bottom of the page for more information.



## Baby Rattle Socks Recalled



Midwest-CBK at 800-394-4225 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or email [productrecovery@mwcbk.com](mailto:productrecovery@mwcbk.com) for more information.

## Target Recalls Wooden Toy Vehicles Due to Choking Hazard

Target at 800-440-0680 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. CT daily or online at [www.target.com](http://www.target.com) and click on "Recalls" at the bottom of the page, then on "Toys" for more information or the "Product



## Fisher-Price Recalls Rock 'n Play Sleepers Due to Reports of Deaths

**Consumer Contact:** Fisher-Price online at [www.service.mattel.com](http://www.service.mattel.com) and click on "Recalls & Safety Alerts" or at 866-812-6518 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday for more information.

## Flying Tiger Copenhagen Recalls Toy Train Carts



Target at 800-440-0680 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. CT daily or online at [www.target.com](http://www.target.com) and click on "Recalls" at the bottom of the page, then on "Toys" for more information

## Hush Recalls Anesthetic Gels, Sprays and Foam Soaps Due to Failure to Meet Child Resistant Closure Requirement; Risk of Poisoning



Hush toll-free at 888-723-3730 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, email at [care@hushanesthetic.com](mailto:care@hushanesthetic.com) or online at <https://hushanesthetic.com/> and click on "Recall" for more information.

## Baby Food Steam Cooker Recalled



[www.BeabaUSA.com/recall](http://www.BeabaUSA.com/recall)

## Igloo Recalls Marine Coolers Due to Entrapment and Suffocation Hazards



Igloo toll-free at 866-509-3503 between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday, or online at [www.igloocoolers.com](http://www.igloocoolers.com) and click on "Contact Us" at the bottom left of webpage.

## Brush Art Recalls WIC Nutrition Plates Due to Fire Hazard



Brush Art at 800-778-9005 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday or online at [www.brushart.com](http://www.brushart.com) and click on WIC Plate Recall 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

### Cosmic Suncatchers

From: <https://babbledabledo.com/art-for-kids-cosmic-suncatchers/>

#### SUPPLIES:

- ◆ White Glue
- ◆ Food coloring or liquid watercolors
- ◆ Toothpicks
- ◆ Plastic lids
- ◆ Hole punch
- ◆ String



#### Instructions:

- ◆ **Step One** Pour a generous amount of glue into one of your plastic lids and swish it around to cover the entire inner surface.
- ◆ **Step Two** Have children put one or two drops of each color of food coloring around the glue.
- ◆ **Step Three** Give children a toothpick to swirl the colors around in the glue. Stop swirling before the colors get too combined or the final result will be muddy and brown. This is an exercise in restraint!
- ◆ **Step Four** Let dry. As the colors settle they will continue to expand and create a dyed psychedelic effect. Depending on how much glue you used, the suncatcher will take one to three days to fully dry. You will know it's ready when the edges start to peel off the lid.
- ◆ **Step Five** When fully dry, peel the suncatcher off the lid, punch a hole through the top, add a string, and hang in a sunny spot.



**...And voilà, your little artists will be so proud of their fun, colorful cosmic suncatchers!**

*Submitted by Lisa Zacharia, Administrative Secretary, Child Care Licensing Program*

## Child Care Licensing Program

Florida Department of Health in Pinellas

8751 Ulmerton Road, Suite 2000

Largo, Florida 33771

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[pclb.org](http://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

### Mary Jane Elder Licensing Specialist



I have worked in the child care industry since I graduated high school! Even during high school I attended Pinellas Technical College (PTC), which had one of the first parent-involved child care facilities and a hands-on lab for child care students. I also did a year of cadet teaching during senior year in a kindergarten class. After graduation, I worked in a few centers and ran my own program while earning my degree in Early Childhood Education. I then became the Director of a wonderful school and was there for several years before briefly relocating to another county in Florida. While in that county, I realized how fortunate the families and providers of Pinellas are, which is due to the regulations of Pinellas County License Board (PCLB). When I was looking for a new position and care for my two-year old grandchild in the other county, I witnessed higher ratios and group sizes, so I really did miss having PCLB's higher quality requirements which protect not only children, but providers and staff as well. Later, I happily returned to Pinellas County and was honored to begin working for PCLB. I started out as an Administrative Secretary where I learned the inner workings of the organization and soon after, became a Licensing Specialist. I recently have also taken on a training position and will be able to assist new staff coming in to our organization as well as update our procedures and forms. I have to say that I have met a lot of caring people in this industry along the way.

Our mission statement reads, "The PCLB 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." Our staff is here because we care about children, families, providers, and their staff! There are so many challenges in the child care industry and I hear over and over that it's so difficult to find people who really care in this field. But the people who do care in centers, homes, in our office, and even other partnering agencies are out there protecting, serving, and supporting children and families.

When we're in the field, Licensing Specialists see many providers every day who care about this industry and the children and families they serve. PCLB's staff wants to protect children and rest assured, our staff works to assist people who truly care for children to do their job.

*I truly do feel blessed to be part of this agency and our community.*