Winter Weather, Florida Style

By Jorie Massarsky
CCLP Supervisor, Centers

While we don’t often think of having “winter” in Florida, there is definitely a change in temperature from our normal 90’s and it can sometimes get downright chilly outside.

Children still need to go outside at least twice a day in full day programs, even if it is cool. At this time of year, we have so many glorious blue-sky, no humidity days that are perfect for running around and enjoying. Over the years, we have heard that when the temperature gets below 60 degrees, some people feel “it is too cold to take children outside,” but this is absolutely not the case. Up north, this is considered the first day of spring and everyone is outside enjoying the end of ice and snow. However, certain protocols need to be put into place to ensure that children can enjoy their time outside.

That spare set of clothing that is normally shorts and a t-shirt now needs to be a long sleeve shirt and pants. A note can be sent home to parents advising them that children will be going outside on all days that it is not raining and they need appropriate clothing. Teachers should be aware of who has complied with the request and who has not. Parents should be encouraged to dress their children in layers so that as the temperature warms, that extra sweatshirt or sweater can come off. Infants that are taken for walks in strollers or buggies can wear hats and be covered with blankets or quilts to ensure they are warm and snuggly.

Directors can ask parents to donate outerwear, sweatpants, and long sleeve shirts that their families have outgrown to be kept for use if a child comes to care without a jacket or sweater.

Just as we recommend in the summer heat, in the cool winter, outside times can be shortened so that children go out more frequently but for shorter periods of time. The times can also be moved toward the middle of the day when the temperature is usually at its highest and the sun is directly overhead.

Finally, please remember that the indoor temperature of the children’s center needs to be between 65 and 82 degrees. If there is a substantial morning chill and your heat isn’t working, you need to check the thermostat to make sure that you are in compliance with the regulation.

Enjoy this break from the heat. In September, you will be saying, “when will this heat ever end?” Well it’s gone for now, so let’s enjoy!

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Thank you for the work you do every day with the children of Pinellas County. Our future is in your hands, and we are grateful for your dedication.
Where Exactly Is Everyone?

By Jorie Massarsky, CCLP Supervisor, Centers

We have noticed that there are large numbers of violations involving accurate attendance. Why is it so important to know exactly who is in each classroom, how many total children each staff member is responsible for, and that everyone is gone at the end of the day?

There have been unfortunate incidents that have caused injury and even death because attendance records were not accurate. During the urgency of an evacuation or a shelter in place due to an emergency, leaving a child behind can have dire consequences.

Each staff member is responsible for noting the time in and time out of every child in their care. This must be done immediately upon arrival and departure. The best way to manage this is to have the attendance roster with the staff member at all times. If you are sitting in circle time, the attendance roster should be right there with you. If you are helping a child with a puzzle at a table, the attendance roster should be right there with you. Having good intentions of “getting to it” often fall by the wayside when we are distracted. We have found that during our inspections, some children are never marked in for the day, even when they have been in attendance for several hours.

First and last names must be on every attendance roster. Even if a child is brand new that day, no staff member should allow a child into their classroom without being able to add that child’s first and last name to the attendance roster.

The attendance roster must also be with the group if they go outside to the playground, during a fire drill, or during a large group activity, such as going to the chapel or the cafeteria.

This brings us to transitions – the act of moving the entire group from one place to another. We transition multiple times during the day, and the accuracy of the attendance must be documented each and every time. If for some reason, you do not transition at all during a particular day (it is raining outside, and you spend the entire day in your classroom), it should be noted on your transition log that there were no transitions that day. Otherwise it appears that you didn’t document!

Children are still being left inside, outside, in classrooms during tornado drills, in bathrooms when classes go outside. If transition logs were really being done accurately, this would not be happening. If you are signing a document that says you verified the accuracy of the attendance, then you really should be doing it.

You should never sign or initial anything if you don’t actually do what it says you are doing. Attendance and transition logs can be considered legal documents and should be taken as seriously as any other legal document.

Let’s make 2019 the year where children are always accounted for accurately!
Children’s Center Training Registration Form

**Record Keeping for Children’s Centers**

- **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, Florida 33771

**Director's Orientation for Infant Care**

- **Registration Fee:** $25.00 prepaid non-refundable fee due prior to training
- **Time:** 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon
- **Location:** Pinellas County Health Department, 8751 Ulmerton Road, Largo, Florida 33771

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (Please Print):</th>
<th>Telephone:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center Name:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Street, City, &amp; Zip Code:</td>
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<td>Date of Training:</td>
<td>Fee Enclosed:</td>
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**January 8, 2019**

**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:** 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon

**LOCATION:** Pinellas County Health Department, 8751 Ulmerton Road, Largo, Florida 33771

**February 12, 2019**

**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 inservice training will be issued.

**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, Florida 33771

**March 12, 2019**

**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:** 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon

**LOCATION:** Pinellas County Health Department, 8751 Ulmerton Road, Largo, Florida 33771
January 18, 2019

Dear Child Care Facility Owner/Operator:

There is an alarming increase in cases of hepatitis A in Florida, including in the Tampa Bay region. In 2018, the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County (DOH-Pinellas) reported 113 cases of hepatitis A in Pinellas County alone. This is significantly higher than Pinellas County’s previous five-year average of three reported cases. Hepatitis A is caused by a virus that attacks the liver and causes severe illness which can lead to hospitalization. The virus can contaminate food and water, spread from person to person and live on surfaces for months if not properly disinfected.

DOH-Pinellas wants to ensure that adults and children are protected from hepatitis A. The most effective way to prevent hepatitis A infection is to get vaccinated. The hepatitis A vaccine is safe and highly effective and is given in two doses, 6 to 12 months apart. The hepatitis A vaccine is available at most clinics and pharmacies in Pinellas County. For a limited time, DOH-Pinellas is offering the vaccine at no cost to all residents and visitors at any of the clinic locations.

Additionally, washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after using the restroom and changing diapers and prior to preparing and eating food can also prevent the spread of diseases such as hepatitis A, flu and norovirus (stomach flu).

The symptoms of hepatitis A can include fever, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, fever, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes), dark urine (orange or brown) and clay-colored stool (gray or white). Most children under 6 years of age do not have symptoms when they have hepatitis A. When symptoms are present, young children typically do not have jaundice, but most older children and adults with hepatitis A have jaundice.

If a staff member or attendee reports these symptoms, they should be excluded from the facility until they have been evaluated by a health care professional and cleared to return to the child care facility.

Along with this letter is an infographic that provides information on hepatitis A. For more information on hepatitis A, please visit www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav.

If you have any questions or have any concerns about hepatitis A, please contact DOH-Pinellas at 727-824-6932. Thank you for your assistance in preventing the spread of hepatitis A in Pinellas County.

Sincerely,

Kevin Baker, MPH, CPH, CHES
Epidemiology Program Manager
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County
What You Need To Know About
HEPATITIS A

HOW IT'S SPREAD:
• Close contact with a person who has hepatitis A
• Eating food or drinking something contaminated with hepatitis A
• Touching a surface contaminated with hepatitis A
• Oral to anal, finger to anal or object to anal sexual contact with an infected partner

SYMPTOMS:
• Fever
• Feeling tired
• Stomach pain
• Nausea and vomiting
• Diarrhea
• Dark urine
• Gray-colored stool
• Yellowing of skin or eyes

HIGH-RISK GROUPS:
• Those who use drugs
• Those currently homeless or couch-surfing
• Men who have sex with men
• Those recently in jail or prison
• Travelers to countries where hepatitis A is common

PREVENTION:
GET VACCINATED
The Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County and most clinics offer the two-dose hepatitis A vaccine. Visit PinellasHealth.com or call 727-824-6932 for more info.

WASH YOUR HANDS
Use soap and water to wash hands after using the bathroom, changing a diaper and before eating or preparing food.

Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Locations:
Clearwater
310 N. Myrtle Ave.
Clearwater, FL 33755

Mid-County
8751 Ulmerton Rd.
Largo, FL 33771

Pinellas Park
8360 78th Ave. N.
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

St. Petersburg
205 Dr. MLK Jr. St. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Tarpon Springs
301 S. Dセットton Ave.
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

Hepatitis A is a virus that can harm your liver. It is passed through the feces of an infected person.

If you think you may have hepatitis A, contact your doctor immediately.
Line Design Prints

Lots of things are made up of lines! Line designs can be straight, curvy, zigzagged, or wavy. Teach your children how to create lots and lots of line designs by wrapping string around wooden blocks and using them to create line-filled prints. Children can press the wrapped blocks onto plates filled with various colors of tempera paints. Challenge them to fill an entire paper with lines!

What You Need:
- Small boxes or wooden or plastic shapes
- String
- Tape
- Scissors
- Tempera paint
- Paper plates
- White paper

What You Do:
- Look around your learning environment for different types of lines with your children. Encourage them to think of words to describe all the different kinds of lines they find.
- Find several blocks or small boxes to use for creating a piece of art.
- Provide the children with lengths of string to use for wrapping the blocks. Tape one end to the block and then allow the children to wrap the shape—a great way to boost those fine motor skills. Once the string has been used up, tape the other end to secure it in place.
- Now, place small amounts of tempera paint in paper plates.
- Position a piece of paper next to each child along with the wrapped shapes.
- Invite the children to press the string-wrapped shapes in the tempera paint, a then stamp them onto the paper to create a line design.

Use the finished line design artwork as wrapping paper or for decorating the front of a handmade card! See this and many other activities at: https://www.education.com/activity/preschool/
Staff Spotlight

Paula Boardman
Senior Clerk, Children’s Centers

I’m very excited to start my new career as the Senior Clerk for Centers with the Child Care Licensing Program at Department of Health.

I moved to Florida from North Dakota in July of 2017, so I went from the coldest state to the hottest state! I also lived in Massachusetts for 25 years, so yes, I’m a PATRIOTS fan!

I am married to Thomas Boardman and we have two awesome boys, Jacob and Jared. Jacob, my oldest son, completed his first year of college at the University of North Dakota but made the move to Florida in May of 2018. My younger son, Jared, is attending to Palm Harbor University High School.

Paula