

FAMILY CHILD CARE CENTERS SUMMER EDITION

TAMMY'S TIPS

By Tammy Sharpe, Centers Supervisor

We have several repeat situations that come up quite frequently in our office. Here are several items to be aware of. The more you follow our tips, the smoother your renewals, changes, and inspections will go:



- ◇ If you receive a notice that one of your employees is no longer DCF eligible, **Child Care Licensing needs to know right away.**
- ◇ When you are sending in your renewal paperwork, please be sure to include your Sunbiz Fictitious Name sheet. You can get a copy of that here: [Division of Corporations - Florida Department of State \(myflorida.com\)](https://myflorida.com/division-of-corporations)
- ◇ Should your center close for **any period of time** call the office to tell us when and why. In some situations you may need a visit from a specialist before reopening. Your specialist will let you know if that is what is needed in your situation.
- ◇ Please remember that all changes, requests, licenses, etc., have several steps on our end to be processed until it is complete. This means requests you send are not instantaneous. Please give your licensing specialist and all our office staff time to get everything accomplished to include paperwork and any site visits needed. **We ask that you plan on the process taking 60 days (a full two months) from the time you make your request until the time it is completed.**
- ◇ Please be sure your employees are working to finish all **training and testing in their 12 month window. There is still a waiting list for tests;** please make sure your employees are allowing adequate time for testing. DCF now allows you to pay online for the tests prior to them being administered.
- ◇ For a change in ownership, the new owners must reapply for a license for the center under the new ownership **PRIOR** to the change of ownership being completed. Please be advised, once the reapplication is submitted, the licensing board has **45 days** to complete the process. Also, any change of ownerships need to be posted one week prior to the change in a conspicuous place in the center, into any existing center newsletters, or individual letters or flyers.
- ◇ When a license specialist comes for an inspection, they will need to see when your last fire inspection was approved, as well as the due date for the next one. They will also need to ensure that the fire extinguishers and first aid kits on any transportation vehicles are current.

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- ◇ All transcripts or diplomas in a foreign language must be translated to English by a **certified translation person or company**. You can find these services using Google; there is a fee for these services. When you turn these documents into licensing, you will need to **submit a copy of the original document, the translated document, and a certification of the translation**.
- ◇ If an employee applies with a home school diploma, the document must say “equivalent to a high school diploma” and have a letter from the Dept of Education or the school district acknowledging all requirements have been met. If the applicant is affiliated with a private/independent school or institution, please verify their validity on one of these websites:
Private School Directory (floridaschoolchoice.org)
Search for Schools and Colleges (ed.gov)
- ◇ If the words “Day Nursery” are on your license, everyone must have early literacy, including substitutes.
- ◇ If you are an after school program on the campus of a school, you must check to make sure that the fire extinguishers are up to date in the licensed area.
- ◇ **Director changes needs to be reported to licensing immediately.** As should any changing contact information for the center such as an email or phone number.
- ◇ As a reminder, we here at licensing offer a free class called ‘Master of Your Fate’. This is a class that a specialist comes in and teaches to you and your staff. It covers topics of supervision, attendance, transitions, incidents & accidents, and more. It is designed to help you and your staff be successful in daycare situations, as well as inspections. If you are interested in having licensing come out to teach this class at your center, please speak to your specialist.

All of us here at licensing are passionate about helping licensed facilities run as smoothly as possible. We always have a specialist who can answer any questions. You can call our office and ask to speak with the ‘Specialist of the Day’ any time you have questions.



Tammy

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All programs offered to children in the State of Florida are required to meet certain requirements set forth in F.A.C. 65C.22.008. According to the Rules and Regulations governing child care, all programs providing services to children, in the absence of their parent or guardian, must be licensed or granted an exemption from licensure.

If a program qualifies to be exempt from child care licensing, they still must meet annual requirements which include all staff passing a level 2 background screening in the State's Clearinghouse system. Child Care Licensure and Exemptions from Licensure renew on an annual basis.

There are many afterschool programs that offer to transport children from Pinellas County Public Schools (PCPS) to their site for after school activities. Beginning on August 10th, 2023, the first day of school for Pinellas County, PCPS and the Pinellas County License Board (PCLB) partnered to create an 'Approved After School Vendor' list for the purpose of vetting programs permitted to release children into non-custodial care. This list can be found on the PCLB [website](#).

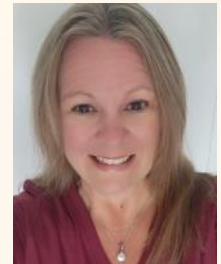
All child care providers who are currently licensed to enroll school aged children are automatically placed on the approved vendor list. Programs who are exempt or are in the process of becoming exempt from licensure, are required (annually) to verify the questionnaire on file still accurately reflects their program operations, submit a current Clearinghouse roster, and a notarized affidavit attesting that all staff have been screened and passed the level 2 screening. A new questionnaire will be required every 5 years once they have completed the exemption process.

We are very excited about this step forward in ensuring the safety of the children in Pinellas County.

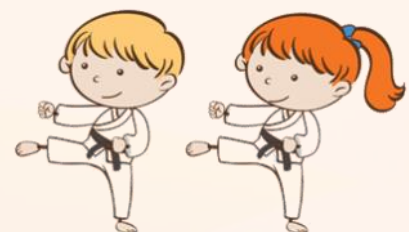
If you are aware of an afterschool vendor who is providing after school services, but is not listed on the approved vendor list, please contact our office at 727-507-4857.



Faith Boroff, M.Ed.
Executive Director



Faith



NEWS FROM EPIDEMIOLOGY

New Drug to Prevent RSV in Babies and Toddlers

Rachel J. Ilic, MPH, CPH, CIC

On July 17, 2023, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved nirsevimab-alip (Beyfortus) for the prevention of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) lower respiratory tract disease in neonates and infants born during or entering their first RSV season, and in children up to 24 months of age who remain at risk for severe RSV disease through their second RSV season.

RSV is a virus that can cause acute respiratory infection in individuals of all age groups. Those infected with RSV experience cold-like symptoms and although usually mild, some infants, especially those with their first infection, can develop lower respiratory tract disease such as pneumonia or bronchiolitis. Premature infants are at the highest risk for severe RSV disease. Most people recover in a week or two, but some can develop severe RSV and need hospitalization.

RSV is usually seasonal and typically begins during the fall and peaks in the winter. RSV is transmitted from one person to another through close contact with someone who is infected. People with RSV can be contagious from three (3) to eight (8) days after symptoms begin but could spread the disease up to two days before symptoms. RSV can be spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes, when someone has direct contact with the virus, like kissing the face of a child with RSV or from infected surfaces.

Nirsevimab is a monoclonal antibody with activity against RSV. Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the immune system's ability to fight off the infection. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has voted to recommend the use of nirsevimab for babies and toddlers and to include nirsevimab in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.

For more information on the RSV monoclonal antibody treatment, please refer to this link:
[FDA Approves New Drug to Prevent RSV in Babies and Toddlers | FDA](#)



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UPCOMING TRAININGS

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 & 1/2) hours of annual in-service training will be issued.

Registration Fee: \$40 prepaid prior to training, non-refundable
Class Time: 8:30am—1:00pm



**TUES
SEPT
12**

PINELLAS DIRECTORS BASICS

Is a three (3) hour training required for new directors who have not been directors previously in Pinellas County or have not been a director in Pinellas County in the last 12 months. This course is designed to foster success by covering regulations unique to Pinellas County, our website as a resource and best management practices. A certificate documenting three (3) hours of annual in-service training will be issued.

Registration Fee: \$25 pre-paid prior to training, non-refundable
Time: 9:00am—12:00pm



**TUES
OCT
10**

DIRECTORS 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 in-service training will be issued.

Registration Fee: \$25 pre-paid prior to training, non-refundable
Class time: 9:00am—1:00pm



**TUES
NOV
14**

All classes are held at 8751 Ulmerton Road, Largo 33774

These classes are subject to cancellation based on restrictions and requirements in the state at that time.

Call the CCLP office prior to class if you need to reschedule in order to avoid repaying the registration fee.

Any persons with a disability requiring reasonable accommodations should call the CCLP office no later than two (2) weeks prior to the training.

Please call 727-507-4857 to register for a class.

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Phillips Avent Digital Video Baby Monitors recalled due to burn hazard.

Consumer Contact:

Website: <https://www.philips.com/video-babymonitor-recall>

Phone: (833) 276-5311

Soft Play recalls Sky Wheels due to fall hazard and risk of injury.

Consumer Contact:

Website: <https://www.softplay.com/product/sky-wheels/>

Phone: (800) 782-7529



Soojimus CUPKIN Stainless Steel Children's cups have been recalled due to violation of federal lead content ban.

Consumer Contact:

Website: <https://www.cupkin.com/>

Email: CPSC@Cupkin.com

Phone: (888) 721-0096



Woom Bikes USA Original Kids' Bicycles recalled due to fall hazard.

Consumer Contact:

Website: <https://faq.us.woombikes.com/article/337-stem-recall-notice>

Email: productsafetyUS@woom.com

Phone: (855) 966-6872

Infanttech Zooby Video Baby Monitor for Cars recalled due to fire hazard.



Consumer Contact:

Website: <https://zoobyrecall.com/>

Email: hello@infanttech.com

Potter Barn Kids Penny Convertible Crib recalled due to laceration hazard.



Consumer Contact:

Website: <https://www.potterybarnkids.com/customer-service/recall-penny-crib.html>

Phone: (855) 801-9300

CPSC Consumer Information Hotline

Contact 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.

www.cpsc.gov

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Behavior- Post Pandemic

By Brenda Pulver

My name is Brenda Pulver, and I am the Director of Bright Discoveries for Early Learning. I have been the Director for nearly 18 years. I began my journey in childcare in May of 1985, just weeks before my high school graduation.



Upon graduating high school, I wasn't sure what my career path would be. I think that I started in daycare because it felt natural to me. I came from a family that loved and supported families in crisis by fostering children for 25 years. Growing up in that environment, I helped my parents raise and care for children with all kinds of needs and personalities. Therefore, I knew that whatever I did would involve teaching, nurturing, and supporting children.

I started working only a few weeks before my graduation in May of 1985, almost 40 years ago. From the very beginning, it felt like this was an avocation for me. Because of my family life growing up, it was just a way of life for me. Having children to teach and love was second nature to me. I'm not sure that I could be happy in any other field.

Being the Director has been a joy and a challenge. I have had countless families to look after through the years. Some have been so easy, and their children have found a special place in all our hearts. As the Director, I have been met with many predicaments as well, particularly post-pandemic.

Other directors and I have said over the last few years many more children are having behavior issues. I would like to take this opportunity to share what things have worked for me and some of the resources we avail ourselves of to assist the children and their families, because getting the best possible head start in life is key. I feel, and experts agree, early intervention is vital to helping a child have a more positive outcome.

It all begins at enrollment; we have clear guidelines for behavior outlined in our information packet. The discipline policy clearly states how we handle behavior that is not acceptable and the steps that will be taken. We review these policies during enrollment.

I am very forthcoming with parents from the very onset of behavioral problems. We as caregivers and parents need to be on the same page. When we are consistent and support each other's efforts, the behavior typically changes for the better. If despite efforts by the parents and my staff, we continue to see behavior issues with a child, we try to pinpoint what is causing the problem.

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There are recurring issues we encounter with negative behaviors; sometimes it is hearing, and the child is nonverbal, so we will reach out for speech therapy for the child. If they are not getting enough rest at home, we try to get parents to set reasonable bedtimes and arrival times, so they have a chance to interact with friends and enjoy classroom activities. Having a good routine helps reduce negative behaviors.

1. I will sometimes remove a child from the room to come and sit with me until they feel like they can be with their group again. Sometimes they need a little time away to calm down.
2. The cameras we have in each of the classrooms and on the playgrounds help me to be aware when a child is struggling, and I can go intervene and assist the child and my staff.
3. We have asked parents to either eliminate pacifiers after 1-year-old or greatly reduce how often they are used. We have had children that do not know how to regulate their emotions and act out because they cannot self-soothe and depend on the pacifier.
4. We ask the parents to encourage the children to be more independent and give them small tasks to do that they can be successful at.

We are finding that children are getting a tremendous amount of screen time at home post pandemic, and it reflects in their behavior in school. Getting parents to limit screen time at home helps a lot with children learning how to interact well with their peers.

These are just a few of the things we implement at our school to attempt to achieve positive results. When these techniques do not help bring about change, we ask the parents to allow us to get the child outside services. These programs help them by engaging with the parents and giving them suggestions as to what might help the child at home. The programs, then speak with the staff and give them tools they can use in the classroom.

After 18 years of interacting with and caring for children and their families trying to help the best we can. I have found that being honest with the parents from the beginning is crucial to get everyone on the same page for the best interest of the child. We don't bombard them daily with a child's behavior, but they are made aware that we are facing challenges in the classroom setting and we offer suggestions on how they can help us at home. When the behavior is more than we or the parents can manage we will offer parents services for the child. Some of the resources we have used and have had good results from, IF the parents are agreeable and follow through with, are the School Readiness program run by Early Learning Coalition (ELC) and the R'Club. We truly love the in-classroom support and parental interaction that these programs offer. As I previously alluded to, not ALL parents will be open and supportive of our best efforts and the best efforts of the resources we offer them, but we still let them know that it's available to them.

Through these hard conversations over the past 3 years or so, I have been stronger in dealing with behaviors and communicating with the parents in turn, it has helped me be more proactive with getting services started as soon as possible and getting parents on board with it.

In the end, we all have the same goal (parents and caregivers), to prepare children for a bright and successful future in school and beyond.

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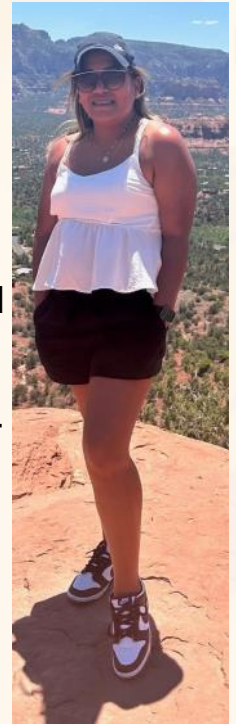
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Staff Spotlight

Please welcome **Maria Valencia** to the team at Child Care Licensing. She will be working under Julie Olive processing the paperwork for all the Homes. A little bit about Maria, she was a care giver with Home Again prior to coming on board with us. She has been married for 23 years, and has three children: Luis, 21, Samantha, 19 and Isaac, 11. She was born in Matamoros, Tamaulipas Mexico, and came to the USA when she was 15 years old. So yes, she is fluent in Spanish! Maria likes to spend her off-work time with friends, experiencing concerts, playing soccer and doing Zumba.

She joined us at PCLB in June this year and so far she says "I love it!" She says she is "grateful to be working with an awesome team that has been assisting her through training."



Maria Valencia
Senior Clerk for Homes



You will most likely hear her voice when you call in, as she also assists with answering phones.

WELCOME MARIA!

Child Care Licensing Program

Florida Department of Health in Pinellas, 8751 Ulmerton Road, Suite 2000, Largo, Florida 33771

727-507-4857 pclb.org

Vision

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

Values

Commitment
Integrity
Quality

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.