



QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County



Summer 2023
Volume 6
Issue 2

FAMILY CHILD CARE CENTERS SUMMER EDITION

IMPORTANT TIPS

By Tammy Sharpe, Centers Supervisor

This newsletter we are sharing some important tips and information of items that are new or that we see in the field on a regular basis.

- ◇ If you have been to the DCF website lately you probably noticed a lot has changed. The navigation is very different and may require some time to get used to the new layout. We suggest for ease you go directly to www.myflfamilies.com/childcare.
- ◇ As a reminder, once an employee starts, they have 90 days from their start work date to begin their DCF training. Once they begin their training, they have 12 months from the start of their training date to get it completed.
- ◇ If your center will be making any changes for the school year that require a visit from licensing, NOW is the time to get those requests in to licensing. Plan on requests taking 30 days to process from beginning to end, to include any site visits needed.
- ◇ When doing fire drills with the children, once they are in their meet up spot outside, please stop to make sure that spot is not in the way of any emergency vehicles that would be there in a true emergency. If you need to meet up at the spot first and then move them to a safer, more out of the way location, that can be done also. Here is an informative article about how to ace your fire drills.
- ◇ Please be sure all indoor & outdoor checklists are being completed daily (on the days you are open) and that it is fully documented. These records must be kept for 12 months.
- ◇ Refrigerators that have temperatures showing on the outside door of the fridge must say the words 'actual temperature' as one of the choices for that temperature to be used in the inspection. If you door does not show the 'actual' temperature, you will need to keep a thermometer in your fridge and freezer for inspections.
- ◇ Please be sure you are sending in a current clearinghouse roster when you send in your license renewal packet. Here are the steps of how to obtain one:
 1. Log into the Clearinghouse by clicking here.
 2. Go to 'initiate screening'
 3. Put in your social security number or last name and click on 'search'.
 4. Once a profile comes up, scroll to the bottom and click 'Add Employment/Contract Roster'.
 5. Follow the prompts to input information for owners, household members, substitutes and employees.
 6. To check and print your roster, go to the top of the profile and click on 'Employee/ Contractor Roster'
- ◇ We have been receiving a lot of complaints recently. Please be in touch with your staff regularly during the day to ensure they are not in need of help, over ratio, or at the end of their wits. This article suggests way to help your staff to avoid burn out: Reduce Stress & Burnout in your Child Care Staff (jackrabbitcare.com)
- ◇ We have had a lot of questions about the clearinghouse and all the different terms related to retain date, renewal dates, etc. We now have an FAQ on our website that may answer some of these questions for you, but the most important thing is to keep your roster up to date: Clearinghouse Renewals FAQs.pdf (myflorida.com)
- ◇ Please be sure that a handwashing sign is hung by ALL handwashing sinks. You can print them here: handwashing.pdf (floridahealth.gov)
- ◇ Any employee trained on a child's medication must have the medication sheet/training in their employee file along with in the classroom with the medication. You can find the medication form here: MEDICATION RECORD (floridahealth.gov)
- ◇ Be aware of when your fire inspection needs to be renewed. It is the center's job to keep track of this and schedule the Fire Inspector to come for a visit. You can find your local department here: Fire Departments - Pinellas County

We wish you all a very happy and safe summer.
Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Tammy

QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

Centers
Summer



Florida's Child Car-Seat Laws

Did you know that any child under five years old must be seated in a federally approved, child car-seat? Failure to follow these laws could result in a \$60 fine and three points against the supervising adult's driver's license.

Florida law states:

- Children five years old or younger must be secured in a federally approved child restraint system.
- Children three years old and younger must use a separate car seat or the vehicle's built-in car seat.
- Children four to five years old and less than four feet, nine inches tall, must sit in either a separate car seat or a built-in child seat or a seat belt depending on height and weight.

Use the following car seat guidelines from the Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Department while driving with a child in your vehicle:

Birth to 12 months
and at least 20 pounds

- Use a rear-facing child car-seat in the back seat of the car.

Twelve months and
20 pounds to five years
old and 40 pounds

- Use a rear-facing child car-seat in the back seat until your child outgrows the weight and height limit of the child car seat.
- Normally when children are older than one year and weigh more than 20 pounds, you can switch to a forward-facing car seat in the back of the car.

Five years old and 40
pounds to six years old or
four feet, nine inches tall

- Use a forward-facing child seat in the back seat until they reach the weight and height limits recommended by the manufacturer.
- Switch to a booster seat in the back of the car.

Six years old or four feet, nine
inches tall to 12 years old

- Use a booster seat in the back seat until your child is big enough to use the car's seat belt.
- At 13 years old, your child can sit in the front seat of your car.

Please contact your local police or fire department for additional information on vehicle safety for your child.

AdventHealth complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex.

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al número siguiente 407-303-3025.

ATANSYON: Si w pale Kreyòl Ayisyen, gen sèvis èd pou lang ki disponib gratis pou ou. Rele nimewo ki anba an 407-303-3025.


AdventHealth
for Children
A part of AdventHealth Orlando



Faith Barnoff, M.Ed.
Executive Director



With summer here, we are receiving questions about car seats for transporting younger children for activities. If your center is approved for transportation, you must follow the Florida Child Car-Seat Laws to ensure you have the correct type and size car seat for each child and that it is installed in the correct position for their age and weight. As you can see in the picture there are 4 guidelines to be followed.

[The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website](#) has a lot of interesting information you may find useful when you are consider-

ing car seats for transportation. You can also have your [car-seats inspected free of charge](#) by a certified technician near your center.

With all of us working together, the children in Pinellas County will have the best summer yet. Please feel free to reach out to Child Care Licensing (PCLB) for questions or concerns.

A copy of this flyer can be [found here](#).

As always, thank you for all you do!

Faith



NEWS FROM EPIDEMIOLOGY Summer Water Play Safety—2023

By Rachel Illic, MPH, CPH, CIC

As the temperatures rise and the sun shines, water play may become a daily activity. The Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County (DOH-Pinellas), would like to remind providers of possible diseases that may be transmitted through untreated water.

Swimming related illnesses occur when someone ingests contaminated water from sources such as swimming pools, splash pads or household hoses where a water main break might have occurred. These diseases can be spread when someone who is ill enters the water. Other water related illnesses can be caused by germs that naturally live in water and soil. These can be spread when chlorine or bromine and pH levels are not high enough to kill off germs¹.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), reports the most commonly reported water related illness is *Cryptosporidium* “Crypto” which is caused by a parasite². Crypto can be spread from person to person, animal to person, through contact with contaminated water or by swallowing contaminated water or food. Outbreaks of Crypto are most common in childcare facilities during the late summer/early fall months but can occur at any time of the year. DOH-Pinellas typically sees increases in cases between June and September³.

The best way to prevent illness is to not allow children who have experienced diarrhea in the past two weeks into the water. Swimmers should also keep water out of their mouth when swimming or playing. Disinfection of the water source is important to prevent illness; however, one CDC study found that more than 10% of routine inspections of public pools, spas and splash pads led to immediate closure due to improper chlorine/bromine or pH levels¹.

DOH-Pinellas recommends excluding ill children from care until 24 hours after symptoms have resolved without the use of medication. For questions or to report clusters of illness, please contact DOH-Pinellas Epidemiology Program at 727-824-6932.

For questions or to report clusters of illness, please contact:

Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County,
Epidemiology Program at :

727-824-6932

Resources:

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/swimmers/rwi.html>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto/childcare/index.html>

³ <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/Charts/>



Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County
205 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N.,
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

**Centers
Summer**

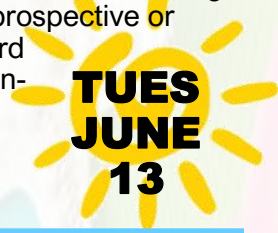


UPCOMING TRAININGS

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 (4.5) 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
JUNE
13**

PINELLAS DIRECTOR'S 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
JULY
11**

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 in-service training will be issued.

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



**TUES
AUG
8**

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.

QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

Centers
Summer



Diamond Vision Plush Monkey recalled due to choking hazard

Consumer contact:
<https://diamond-visions.com/recall-notice/>

Lucky Global Multi-Purpose helmets, have been recalled due to non-compliance with stability requirements. They were sold exclusively on **Walmart.com**



Consumer Contact:
Email luckglinc@hotmail.com

Lil Anglers Fishing Rod sold with casters recalled due to violation of Federal Lead Content Ban

Consumer contact:
<https://www.kidcastersrecall.com>



Walker Edison Furniture Twin Bunk Bed recalled due to fall and impact hazards.

Consumer Contact:
Website: https://walkeredison.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/requests/new?ticket_form_id=360001011772

Rollerblade USA In-Line Skates recalled due to fall hazard.



Customer Contact:
<https://www.rollerblade.com/usa/en/fury-recall>

Easter Bunny and Boutique Butterfly necklace and jewelry recalled due to high levels of cadmium,

Consumer contact:
<https://www.greatpretenders.ca>



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.

<https://www.cpsc.gov/>

QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

Centers
Summer

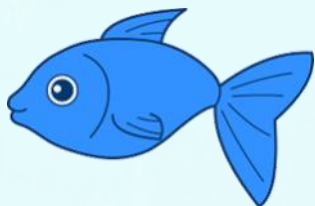
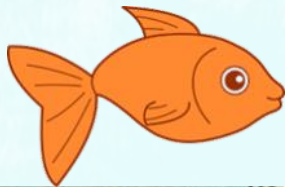


Creative Corner

Fun, educational activities kids

Here is a fun and cute spring craft from
'Glued to My Crafts'

Fish Handprint Puppets



Craft Supplies Needed:

1. Scrapbook paper or cardstock paper
2. School Glue
3. Jumbo Popsicle Sticks
4. Medium wiggle eyes
5. Basic craft scissors
6. Pencil or Pen

Directions:

- Trace the child's handprint/ on to the paper and cut the design out with the scissors. Repeat for however many handprints you want.
- Cut heart-shaped lips out of orange or red cardstock and glue them to the palms of the cutouts.
- Glue wiggle eyes on the fish
- Children could decorate the fish however they'd like using glitter, rhinestones, sequins, markers, etc.
- Let dry completely and then glue popsicle sticks to the back. Once the glue is completely dry your fish can have fun 'swimming'!

If you would like to share how your
home or center is being creative
please email
karen.kirouac@flhealth.gov
or call 727-507-4857



QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

Centers
Summer



Board Spotlight

Meet Dr. Susan Weber, Instructor In-Charge of Early Childhood Education at St. Petersburg College. Dr. Weber sits on our Pinellas County Licensing Board as a member in good standing from the Pinellas County Preschool Associations.

She began her early childhood professional journey in a school in Pinellas Park. She was eighteen years old and felt such a passion for the classroom she began to take two summer courses at the then St. Petersburg Junior College. She spent several years in the classroom, working with toddlers and preschool age children. Dr. Weber stepped up to a directors' position and became a part of our local NAEYC Chapter. She has had many roles over the years; however, training and curriculum is her heart and soul. Dr. Weber earned her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of South Florida in 2014. She truly enjoys working with others and helping them find their passion.

Dr. Weber is one of the few natives to the area, as she was born at Morton Plant Hospital and grew up in Largo. Her husband, Jonathan Weber, also grew up here. They both graduated from Osceola High School, and mark their 30 year wedding anniversary at the end of this May. They have two grown children. Cameron is a graduate of Florida Polytechnic University and will be beginning a master's degree in the fall. Their



Dr. Susan Weber, PhD

daughter Brooke, just graduated with her AA from St. Petersburg College and is now enrolled at the University of South Florida-Go Bulls!



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.