

FAMILY CHILD CARE CENTERS WINTER 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 your center is operating under a name that is not the same as the corporation name, a fictitious name must be registered with Sunbiz. This is to inform the public which individual or business entity is transacting business under a particular name. You can get answers to all your questions here: [Florida Fictitious Name Registration - Division of Corporations - Florida Department of State](#)
- ◇ If you are hiring an employee who has worked in an unlicensed center and they have not started their MODS (40 clock hours), an explanation or proof that the former facility was unlicensed must be in the employee's file. It is the center's responsibility to research if the employee's previous center was licensed or unlicensed.
- ◇ Please be sure to review your menus to ensure they are meeting Pinellas County regulations. These are the areas to make sure are being done properly:
 - *Serving nutritious meals and snacks in accordance with the [USDA My Plate](#) guidelines
 - *Do not serve foods that are associated with young children's choking incidents, such as hot dogs, popcorn, whole grapes, cheese sticks, etc. Nothing that is a similar shape and size of the trachea/windpipe.
 - *For infants food must be cut into pieces 1/4 inch or smaller to prevent choking
 - *For toddlers food must be cut into pieces 1/2 inch or smaller to prevent choking
 - *These rules apply to all food, including food brought in by parents/guardians
- ◇ Please note that recently there was an update to the Acknowledgement/Child Abuse & Neglect Reporting Requirements. There used to be a clause at the bottom that has now been moved to the employment application. Please ensure you are using this form for your Child Abuse & Neglect Reporting Requirements from now on. Please discard any older forms.
- ◇ There was an update to the employment application for individuals applying to work at centers. Please be sure you are using all of the wording on this document on your application. You may use this document as a guide and put your letterhead or logo on it, but you need to be sure that all items need to be filled out match what we have on form C0046. This was updated in November 2023. Please throw out any old blank applications you may have and begin to use this one.
- ◇ Just as a note, the links in the centers regulations were recently updated to ensure all links are working. Please see the most updated copy here: [C-REGS MANUAL.wpd \(floridahealth.gov\)](#)

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.

I would like to wish all of you a very happy and healthy holiday season!

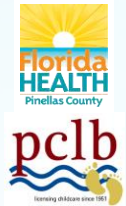
Tammy



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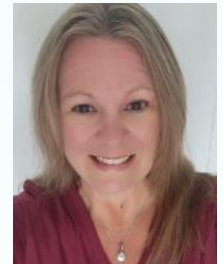


The holidays are such a special time of year. To see the excitement in children's eyes from the magic of the season warms everyone's heart. But as we know some of those items that create that magic can be dangerous to the little ones. [Here are some tips](#) to ensure a safe and magical holiday season:

- * Be aware of 'holiday' plants that are toxic if eaten, such as mistletoe, holly, Jerusalem cherry, amaryllis and poinsettias.
- * Snow sprays are hazardous if the powder is swallowed or the aerosol spray gets on eyes or skin.
- * Bubble lights or lights with any kind of liquid can pose several issues. Even if it is labeled 'non-toxic' it may still be harmful if swallowed or gets on the skin. There is also a burn risk associated with hot liquids.
- * Avoid decorations that are sharp and/or breakable. Also make sure they do not have small parts easily removable as those can be choking hazards.
- * Do not leave holiday lights and decorations on while no one is in the center or home. LED lights are the safest to use; they use one-tenth the energy of traditional lights, and they are cooler to the touch. This reduces the risk of burns and fire.
- * If you put a real tree in your home or center, ensure that it is not able to be pulled over by small children. Keep it watered, as a dry tree is a fire hazard. Keep the tree away from heat sources such as outlets, radiators and space heaters.
- * If you chose to use an artificial tree, the tree needs to be labeled 'fire-retardant'
- * Be sure any trees or decorations do not block any doorways or exit paths.
- * Avoid using real candles. There are many realistic looking battery operated candles for sale.
- * Be sure you do not overload outlets with multiple strigs of lights or decorations. This increases your risk of fire.
- * Check all decoration wires and light strings for any frayed or cut wires. Do not use any that are frayed or cut.



Faith Boroff, M.Ed.
Executive Director



Have the number to poison control available at all times: 800-222-1222

All of us at Child Care Licensing would like to wish all of you a very happy and magical holiday season.

Faith



NEWS FROM EPIDEMIOLOGY

HIGH BLOOD LEAD LEVELS LINKED TO CINNAMON

The DOH-Pinellas Epidemiology Program is actively monitoring the cinnamon recall linked to elevated blood lead levels in children. The attached CDC Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory, CDC HAN: 500, was sent to area providers, laboratorians and public health professionals. A summary is below.

WHAT IS BEING RECALLED?

WanaBana, Schnucks, and Weis have initiated voluntary recalls of certain lots of the following products:

- WanaBana brand apple cinnamon fruit purée pouches
- Schnucks brand cinnamon applesauce pouches
- Weis brand cinnamon applesauce pouches

WHAT IS LEAD POISONING?

Childhood lead poisoning is a preventable, serious environmental health problem. Young children absorb lead more efficiently than adults. Lead is a systemic toxin that affects virtually all body systems.

Lead exposure is associated with a range of serious health effects among young children, including anemia, hearing loss, diminished skeletal growth, delayed pubertal development, dental caries, and impaired neurologic development.

Lead exposure is an important cause of preventable brain injury and neurodevelopmental dysfunction that is associated with detrimental effects on children's cognitive and behavioral development, including measurable declines in IQ. Even low levels of lead can cause adverse health effects in children.

WHAT IS DOH-PINELLAS DOING?

Lead poisoning is a reportable condition in Florida. Local health care providers, laboratories and public health professionals are required to report all blood lead levels (BLL) results to DOH. The Epidemiology Program reviews elevated BLL results and provides recommendations or initiates investigation based on the BLL level.

NEXT STEPS

A Town Hall presentation on lead poisoning is being planned for **November 28**. Formal invitation to follow.

**PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE EPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAM
AT 727-824-6932 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.**

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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



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

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



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 visit [our website](#) to print the registration form, or call 727-507-4857 to register for a class.

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UncleWu Life bath seat recalled due to drowning hazard, violation of bath seat requirements

Consumer Contact:

Website: <http://www.unclewulife.com/>

Email: wuxijay@me.com



Dorel Juvenile Group recalls Cosco Jump, play & spin Activity Centers due to fall and injury hazards.

Consumer Contact:

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

Email: coscoactivitycenterrecall@djgusa.com

Phone: (877) 657-9546



YooCAA Baby Loungers have been recalled due to suffocation risk, and fall and entrapment hazards,

Consumer Contact:

Website: [https://yooCAA.com/](https://yooCAA.com/pages/safety-recall)

[pages/safety-recall](https://yooCAA.com/pages/safety-recall)

Email: yooCAA-cs@hotmail.com

Little Sleepies Recalls Sleepyhead Loveys and Bandana Bibs due to choking and magnet ingestion hazards.

Website: [https://www.littlesleepies.com/](https://www.littlesleepies.com/pages-recall)
[pages-recall](https://www.littlesleepies.com/pages-recall)

Email: hello@littlesleepies.com

Phone: (866) 330-3353



Make Believe Ideas recalls Seven Rainbow Board Books due to choking hazard.

Consumer Contact:

Website: [https://](https://www.recallrtr.com/rr)
www.recallrtr.com/rr

Phone: (877) 206-1091



Thomas & Friends Wooden Railway Troublesome Truck & Crates and Troublesome Truck & Paint recalled by Fisher Price due to choking and magnet ingestion hazards.

Consumer Contact:

Website: [https://](https://www.service.mattel.com/us/recall.aspx)
[www.service.mattel.com/us/](https://www.service.mattel.com/us/recall.aspx)
[recall.aspx](https://www.service.mattel.com/us/recall.aspx)

Phone: (855) 853-6224



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.

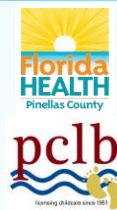
Call to get product safety and other agency information and to report unsafe products.

www.cpsc.gov

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CINNAMON STICK
CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

Creative Corner

Fun, educational activities kids **LOVE**
and a place to show off.

INGREDIENTS

Cinnamon Stick
Thin Green Ribbon
Red Button
Twine
Hot Glue

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Tie 4 pieces of green ribbon on a cinnamon stick.

Step 2: Trim the ribbon to look like a tree shape.

Step 3: Hot glue a short piece of twine to the top of the cinnamon stick to use as a tree hanger.

Step 4: Hot glue a red button to the top of the cinnamon stick.

Step 5: Hang on your tree and enjoy the cinnamon scent!

Please watch buttons around little ones as they are a choking hazard.

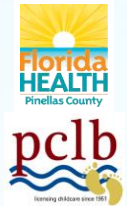
If you would like to share how your home or center is being creative please email Karen. Directors can also publish articles here to meet a Professional Contribution Requirement.

**karen.kirouac@flhealth.gov
or call 727-507-4857**

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Staff Spotlight - Maranielly Vazquez

Please welcome Child Care Licensing Specialist **Maranielly Vazquez** to Child Care Licensing; she joined the team in September 2023. Maranielly began her career in education as a bilingual teacher in Chicago Public Schools. Of her 28 years teaching bilingual students, most of those years were spent teaching kindergarten (11 yrs) and pre-school (9 yrs).

Maranielly is proud that she was able to bring her teaching career full circle by teaching at the elementary school she attended since kindergarten, Chase Elementary, where she taught for 10 years. During that time, she became the first dual language teacher there; she collaborated with the DHH (Deaf and Hard of Hearing) teacher to allow their students greater socialization opportunities; and she participated in many after-school events that focused on making education fun and engaging.

Through it all, Maranielly's husband of 36 years, Marcelino, has been her greatest supporter. They raised their 3 daughters in Chicago, but now, they all live in different cities. Their oldest daughter, Maranielly, still lives in Chicago. Their middle daughter, Maralynn, lives in L.A. along with her husband and her own daughter. Their youngest daughter, Michelle, lives in Clearwater. Maranielly thinks living far away from her daughters and granddaughter is difficult but receiving daily pictures and/or videos makes it easier.

Maranielly says this about her time so far with Child Care Licensing: "I'm very happy that I found a job that allows me to use my education background outside of the classroom. Everyone at Child Care Licensing is so nice and supportive. I look forward to working with them for many years to come." We are very excited to have Maranielly on the team and she looks forward to meeting all of you!



Maranielly, left, at McTeacher Night, a fundraiser at McDonalds



Maranielly with her granddaughter



Maranielly and her family

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.