



# QUARTERLY NEWS!



Child Care Licensing Program Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

Fall 2019  
Volume 2  
Issue 1

## FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES



## FALL EDITION

### Let's Save A Life

By Jorie Massarsky, Supervisor, Centers

Each year, one of the saddest statistics we hear is that some children have died because they were inadvertently left in cars or vans for extended periods of time. While we all live busy lives with much on our minds, it is our duty to do everything we can to protect our children.



The Florida Legislature enacted legislation that states that information about being a Distracted Driver be given out to all families that utilize child care in Florida two times a year, both in September and April. The Department of Children and Families recently updated the flier to make it similar to the Influenza Brochure, in that there is a place for each parent to sign and date receipt.

There are various ways to show compliance. The signing page can be retained and put in each child's file. Any child enrolled in your program in September should have a page, and any child enrolled in your program in April should have a page. Some may have two, others just one. You also could post the flyer and have each child's parent/guardian sign for receipt of the information in both September and again in April. Your Licensing Specialist will be looking for evidence of receipt for the Distracted Driver flier when they review the children's files at an inspection. Please determine which system will work for your program and make evidence of compliance easiest for your Licensing Specialist to determine.

While we all find additional paperwork cumbersome, if we can save just one child's life by doing this it will certainly be worthwhile. We have included a copy of the Distracted Driver flier in this newsletter and it is also available on our website, [www.pclb.org](http://www.pclb.org) under Homes Forms.

*Thank you for doing all you can to keep the children of Florida safe.*

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With Faith Bornoff, M.Ed.  
Executive Director



It's that time again! Back to school marks a new beginning for many of us and sometimes it also marks a change in the world of Child Care Regulation. Recently, DCF proposed some new regulations and have now adopted those pertaining to Home Child Care and After School programs. These changes will be presented to the Pinellas County License Board and adopted into Pinellas law at our September Board meeting. A summary of changes will be shared with all Directors and Providers and Technical Assistance for these new regulations will be given through March of 2020. Please note, there are no new regulations for Children's Centers at this time. DCF did propose changes, but they have not made it into law. We will keep you posted should this change.

I also wanted to take the time to remind you that your program could receive an inspection at any time of day, any day your program is open for business. Although our office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, our Licensing Specialists work outside of those hours/days whenever needed to ensure all programs and complaints are properly monitored. It is advised that you provide your Licensing Specialist with a schedule of your closures for the year or call the office when your program will be closed unexpectedly. Your Licensing Specialist also has the right to conduct interviews, collect paperwork or make copies of paperwork, take photographs, take videos, or ask for copies of photographs or videos pertaining to an incident or inspection. All confidential information collected is kept in a confidential file at our office and only redacted copies are subject to public records requests.

The Pinellas County Licensing Board wishes to partner with you to ensure the best possible environment for our children. If you have any questions or want to discuss any aspect of the regulations pertaining to child care, please do not hesitate to call our office. Here's to a safe and successful school year!

## What to Do About the Flu in Child Care Facilities and Family Child Care Homes

By Kevin Baker, Epidemiology

**W**hen an attendee or staff member at a child-care facility (CCF) or Family Child Care Home (FCCH) gets the flu, it puts everyone around them at risk of being infected as well. With flu season right around the corner, it is important that everyone take the right precautions to prevent the spread of flu. The flu, formally known as influenza, is a very contagious respiratory illness caused by flu germs that are spread by someone who is infected while coughing, sneezing, talking, or laughing. The germs can land in the eyes, nose or mouth of others or on surfaces that people touch often, like doorknobs. If someone touches their eyes, nose, or mouth with flu germs on their hands, they can get sick.

What does an illness caused by the flu look like? **Flu-like illness is defined as having a fever of at least 100 degrees and a cough or sore throat**, but some may get a runny nose, body aches and headaches, too. Flu infections range from mild to very severe, with some people having to be hospitalized for days to weeks. Young children are more at risk of complications from the flu, which can include pneumonia, brain dysfunction, ear infections, and rarely, death.

What can CCF or FCCH operators do to fight the flu? CCFs or FCCHs are at an elevated risk of a flu outbreak due to the nature of the setting—multiple children in a room for hours at a time touching doorknobs, toys, tables and chairs, as well as each other. To help reduce the spread of flu, CCF or FCCH operators can promote that staff and attendees get the annual flu vaccine, wash their hands

**“To help reduce the spread of flu, CCF or FCCH operators can promote that staff and attendees get the annual flu vaccine, wash their hands often with soap and warm water, and cough into the bend of their arm or a tissue.”**

**FLU  
SEASON  
AHEAD**



often with soap and warm water, and cough into the bend of their arm or a tissue. The flu vaccine changes every year to provide as best protection to the population as possible, so everyone aged 6 months and older should receive it as early as October each year for it to be the most effective.

What do you do if you find an attendee or staff who has flu-like symptoms or was diagnosed with the flu? Flu-like illness and influenza outbreaks are reportable to the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County (DOH-Pinellas). Flu and flu-like illness outbreaks are classified as two attendees and/or staff with flu-like illness and/or flu diagnosis by a health care professional.

### Steps to take if you have more than one case of flu or flu-like illness:

1. **Contact DOH-Pinellas at 727-824-6932 to report the outbreak and receive consultation on how to stop the spread of the disease.**
2. **Make sure ill staff and attendees are excluded from the facility until fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication.**
3. **Create a line list of all ill staff and attendees and their contact information so DOH-Pinellas can follow up with them.**
4. **Begin cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces in the facility, starting in the room(s) where the ill individuals spent time beginning the day before their symptoms started.**
5. **Send a letter home to parents and staff and post a notice at the entry of the facility about the ongoing illness.**
6. **Educate staff, attendees and parents on proper handwashing and cough etiquette.**
7. **Monitor the facility for one week after the last date an ill attendee or staff attended while contagious.**



## Clearinghouse Roster Tips

**P**roviders, please be sure that you have logged into your Clearinghouse account and completed or updated the roster. Remember, it is in the regulations that the roster needs to be completed.



*“The employer/owner/operator must add substitutes, employees and household members to their Employee/Contractor Roster when the individual has received a child care eligible result. Employer/owner/operator must immediately add an end date for individuals to the Employee/Contractor Roster in the Clearinghouse when employment terminates or a household member no longer resides in the home.”*

### Steps:

1. Log into your Clearinghouse account
2. Initiate Screening
3. Enter Social Security number and last name and hit Search button
4. When profile appears, scroll to bottom of page and click on Add Employee
5. Enter information for that person (owner, household member, or employee)
6. Enter their origination date to the best of your knowledge
7. Click on Save To Specified Provider

*Then print copy for your records for review by Licensing Specialist.*



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Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County



# Fall Homes Edition



A change in daily routine, lack of sleep, stress, fatigue, cell phone use, and simple distractions are some things parents experience and can be contributing factors as to why children have been left unknowingly in vehicles...



Developed by:  
The Office of Child Care Regulation

www.myflfamilies.com/childcare  
CF/PI 175-12, May 2018

When life happens...Don't be a  
**DISTRACTED  
ADULT**



Never leave  
your child alone  
in a car, not even  
for a minute.



## FACTS ABOUT HEATSTROKE:

It only takes a car **10 minutes to heat up 20** degrees and become deadly.

Even with a **window cracked**, the temperature inside a vehicle can cause heatstroke.

The body temperature of a child increases **3 to 5 times faster** than an adult's body.



## ⚠️ PREVENTION TIPS:

- Never leave your child alone in a car and call 911 if you see any child locked in a car!
- Make a habit of checking the front and back seat of the car before you walk away.
- Be especially mindful during hectic or busy times, schedule or route changes, and periods of emotional stress or chaos.
- Create reminders by putting something in the back seat that you will need at work, school or home such as a briefcase, purse, cell phone or your left shoe.
- Keep a stuffed animal in the baby's car seat and place it on the front seat as a reminder when the baby is in the back seat.
- Set a calendar reminder on your electronic device to make sure you dropped your child off at child care.
- Make it a routine to always notify your child's child care provider in advance if your child is going to be late or absent; ask them to contact you if your child hasn't arrived as scheduled.

During the 2018 legislative session, a new law was passed that requires child care facilities, family day care homes and large family child care homes to provide parents, during the months of April and September each year, with information regarding the potential for distracted adults to fail to drop off a child at the facility/home and instead leave them in the adult's vehicle upon arrival at the adult's destination.



My signature below verifies receipt of the Distracted Adult brochure

Parent/Guardian:

\_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return this portion of the brochure to your child care provider, to maintain the receipt in their records.

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## The Boppy Company Recalls Infant Head and Neck Support Accessories Due to Suffocation Hazard



The Boppy Company toll-free at 888-772-6779 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. MT Monday through Friday, email at [info@boppy.com](mailto:info@boppy.com) or online at [www.boppy.com](http://www.boppy.com) and click on important recall information at the top of the page for more information.



## Lidl Recalls Wooden Grasping Toys Due to Choking Hazard



Website: <http://www.lidl.com>  
Phone: (844) 747-5435

## Dorel Juvenile Group USA Recalls Inclined Sleepers Due to Safety Concerns About Inclined Sleep Products



Call Dorel toll-free at 877-657-9546 or text Dorel at 812-373-6673 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, email at [inclinesleeperrecall@djgusa.com](mailto:inclinesleeperrecall@djgusa.com), or online [www.safety1st.com](http://www.safety1st.com) at and click on "Safety Notices" for more information.

## Britax Recalls Modified Thru-Bolt Axles for Use with BOB Jogging Strollers Due to Fall and Injury Hazards



Britax toll-free at 888-427-4829 from 9 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. ET Monday through Thursday, or between 9 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. ET on Friday or via email at [US-customerservice@britax.com](mailto:US-customerservice@britax.com).

## Stokke Recalls Infant Steps Bouncers Due to Fall Hazard



Stokke by email at [info-usa@stokke.com](mailto:info-usa@stokke.com) toll-free at 877-978-6553 Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET or visit [www.stokke.com](http://www.stokke.com) and click on the link for product recalls for more information.

## H&M Recalls Children's Pajamas Due to Violation of Federal Flammability Standard

H&M toll-free at 855-466-7467 from 7 a.m. to 12 a.m. CT any day of the week or online at [www.hm.com](http://www.hm.com) and click on Legal & Privacy and then Recalled Items for more information.



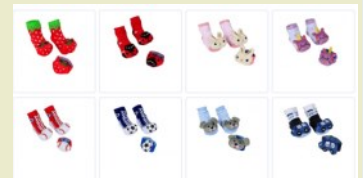
## Super Jumper Recalls Trampolines Due to Fall and Injury Hazards

Super Jumper toll-free at 866-757-3636 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday, email at [recall@superjumperinc.com](mailto:recall@superjumperinc.com) or online at [www.superjumperinc.com](http://www.superjumperinc.com) and click on the "Recall" link for more information.



## London Bridge Recalls Sock and Wrist Rattle Sets Due to Choking Hazard

London Bridge at 800-653-5048 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, email at [support@maisonchiconline.com](mailto:support@maisonchiconline.com) or online at [www.maisonchiconline.com](http://www.maisonchiconline.com) and click on Product Recalls at the bottom of the page 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

# 5 Little Pumpkins



This Halloween, kids can have fun singing the 5 Little Pumpkins song with their own lift-the-flap-pumpkin craft. As each verse is sung, kids can lift the pumpkin's flap and see the number. They practice number recognition and counting while they sing.

### Supplies:

- 2 pieces of black cardstock
- 1 piece of orange cardstock
- 1 piece of brown cardstock
- 1 piece of white cardstock
- white chalk
- craft glue
- scissors
- stapler (adult)

*"I like using cardstock for all our crafts because it holds up to the kids' glue and has nice color."*

**Five little pumpkins sitting on the gate**

**The first one said, "Oh, my it's getting late"**

**The second one said, "There are witches in the air"**

**The third one said, "But I don't care"**

**The fourth one said, "Let's run and run and run"**

**The fifth one said, "I'm ready for some fun"**

**Ooooo! Went the wind, and out went the light**

**And the five little pumpkins rolled out of sight!**

(Hold up 5 fingers)

(Hold up thumb)

(Hold up index finger)

(Hold up middle finger)

(Hold up ring finger)

(Hold up pinky)

(Blow through hands, then clap)

(Roll hands behind back)



## Child Care Licensing Program

Florida Department of Health in Pinellas

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**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

### Maria Villarreal, Licensing Specialist



**D**uring my college years in my home town of Miami, I got my start in child care. I have been a preschool teacher, an Assistant Director, and then a Director. 26 years ago, our family decided to leave Miami and move to Dunedin. I loved our new town and I was fortunate enough to get a job at St. Cecilia, where my children attended school.

I have worked with Child Care Licensing in Pinellas County for 14 years. The most fulfilling aspect of my career is knowing that I am doing my part to keep preschool age children in Pinellas County safe.

My husband Kiko and I have been married for 33 years! I have a step-daughter, a daughter, and a son plus 3 grandchildren! My chocolate lab, Bailee, is 14 years old and very loveable. In my free time I love eating out, kayaking, traveling, and yoga.

When I think about what makes a great Family Child Care Home, the provider is a good, nurturing role model, knows home regulations very well, is kind, organized, and has a passion for children.

Here's to an excellent year ahead!

