



# QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County



Fall 2021  
Volume 4  
Issue 3

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES



FALL EDITION



Faith Barnoff, M.Ed.  
Executive Director



we are still proud to partner with many community partners as well as with child care programs, in our effort to ensure that the health and safety of children remains an important focus is at the local level.

This celebration is scheduled to be a "come and go" or open house-style event being held in our outside conference center. If public health concerns warrant postponing the event, a notice will be posted on our website.

I am excited to celebrate this milestone, and look forward to many more years of supporting the best possible learning environments for the children of Pinellas County.

## PCLB Is Turning 70!

On Tuesday, September 14th, Pinellas County License Board (PCLB) will host a 70th birthday celebration at the Mid-County Department of Health from 12:00 noon -4:00 p.m. We hope you will join us.

PCLB was created in 1951, making us the first county in the state of Florida to implement a regulatory process for child care. In years to follow, the state of Florida made child care regulations mandatory in all counties. We are proud to have been the leader in identifying the need for standards regarding the operation of Family Child Care Homes and Children's Center settings. Originally part of the Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) and now the Florida Department of Health (DOH),

Layout &  
Design by




Lisa  
Zacharia

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You are cordially invited to attend the **70th Birthday Open House Celebration** of Pinellas County License Board.


**Tuesday, September 14**  
**12:00 Noon — 4 P.M.**

Mid-County Health Department  
**8751 Ulmerton Road, Largo**  
outside Conference Center

**Here's to 70 Years!**

Please join us for refreshments, reminiscing and gratitude for your support of the Pinellas County License Board.


**Happy Birthday**



Since 1951

2021  
SEPTEMBER

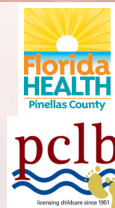
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## Be Organized, Be Safe, Be Your Best Self

By Jorie Massarsky, Children's Center Supervisor

A new school year brings lots of opportunities and this year, once again, lots of challenges. First, the good news: many are vaccinated and have a layer of protection against getting extremely sick or ending up in the hospital from COVID-19. If any of your family members or parents are not yet vaccinated, please ask them to educate themselves on the positive versus negative aspects of the vaccine from reputable sources. Then they can make an informed decision about what is right for them and those around them. Also, please continue with handwashing. Children should wash their hands as soon as they enter your home and throughout the day. This includes you as the provider also. As for the mask wearing, it is not mandated, but it's highly recommended.

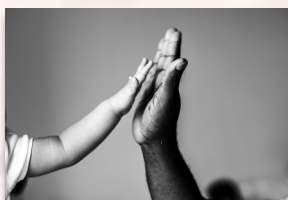
If you are correctly maintaining your **Clearinghouse Roster**, you are getting notifications when prints that are retained are about to expire. It is now five years since we all had to be re-screened, and you should be aware of when it is time to re-submit yourself, adult household members, employees and substitutes. If you miss the print retained deadline, you will have to be re-fingerprinted all over again, an unnecessary added expense. So please, be sure that your Clearinghouse Roster is up to date and that the email that the Clearinghouse has it in fact yours. This is a great system that works when you allow it to work. Once re-screened, you can sit back and relax about it for another five years.

Influenza Brochures and Distracted Driver Flyers once again need to be distributed in the fall. Why not do both in September, at the same time, satisfying both regulations and making it

easier on families? You can use the paper copies or once again or email them out and put the email received notification with the date in each child's file. We must be able to see that both of these important pieces of information did reach their intended recipients during the required timeframe.



Now, some issues we are all going to continue to face. Many families and staff have had a rough few years. Personal illness, loss and economic insecurity have added layers of stress to our already busy lives. We must all be empathetic and understand our recent shared common history. As I write this, there are still many people, who are becoming extremely ill, and parents are facing tough decisions about putting their children in situations where masks are not mandated and other practices designed to lessen the spread of disease are no longer being implemented. Please take advantage of



Trauma Informed Care Trainings and programs like Positive Behavior Supports. Children need to regain their social and emotional footing, and we need to understand if they are having difficulty with this. As providers you also

have a life outside of day care hours, and parents are not always aware of the pressures that you are facing. The same applies to your parents, you are not always aware of the pressures they are facing.

We all must support each other to not bring those issues to the work or home place and be able to be positive and nurturing to the children and parents in your care.

Finally, I encourage you to look inward to determine what you need.

As child care providers, sometimes we think that we must bear the burden alone; that is simply not the case. Many are here to help; whether it is mentoring, advice, or just a few minutes to listen.

At the Child Care Licensing Program, we encourage our Licensing Specialists to give technical assistance and problem solve, and we offer many trainings that will help you and your staff be "your best selves."



***We wish you a wonderful school year, full of promise and delight.***

*Julie Oliver*  
Family Child Care  
Homes Supervisor

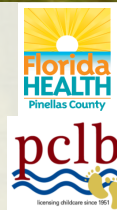
Visits from Child Care Licensing can take place anytime and more than twice per year.

Entry must be granted.



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## Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County NEWS FROM EPIDEMIOLOGY

### COVID-19 Updates & Safe Child Care Operating Guidance

**R**ates of COVID-19 have been rising all over the United States. Since May 2021, the 7-day moving percent positivity has more than doubled in the state of Florida. In Pinellas County, emergency department visits and testing demands have increased substantially. COVID-19 cases have been on the rise across all age groups. At this time, individuals over the age of 12 are eligible for vaccination and 54% of eligible Pinellas County residents have completed the vaccine series.

Given the identification of the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant and the increase in cases reported across the US, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated the guidance for fully vaccinated people. CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

In addition, the CDC has recently updated COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education (ECE) and Child Care Programs. Some key takeaways include:

- **Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.** Promoting vaccination among eligible individuals can help ECE programs protect staff and children in their care, as well as their families.
- Settings with children returning to full-time in-person learning in the fall should ensure layered prevention strategies in place, including:
  - ◇ **Good ventilation can reduce the number of virus particles in the air.** If safe to do so, open windows, use child-safe fans and consider activities outdoors. More recommendations can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/ventilation.html>



- ◇ **Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (ages 2 and older).**
- ◇ **Maintain physical distancing and implement cohorting to limit contact between individuals and groups.** When determining how to ensure physical distance and size of cohorts, ECE programs should consider education loss and social and emotional well-being of children, and the needs of the families served when they cannot attend ECE programs in person.
- ◇ **Teach and reinforce handwashing and respiratory etiquette.**

The complete COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/child-care-guidance.html>

It is important to monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, the occurrence of outbreaks, and local policies to guide decisions on prevention strategies in your facility. Updated information on trends and Florida cases can be found here: <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/>

Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County  
205 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N., St. Petersburg, Florida 33701  
**(727) 824-6932**  
**PinellasHealth.com**



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HOMES  
FALL



## Children's Nightgowns Sold Exclusively on Amazon.com Recalled Due to Violation of Federal Flammability Standard and Burn Hazard; Manufactured by Auranso Official

Auranso Official toll-free at 833-253-6448, email at [Auranso\\_us@outlook.com](mailto:Auranso_us@outlook.com) or online at [www.auransoly.com](http://www.auransoly.com) and click on "Product Recall Notice" at the bottom of the page for more information on how to receive a refund.



## One Twenty Clothing Company Recalls "Sovereign Athletic" Children's Robes Due to Violation of Federal Flammability Standard and Burn Hazard

Consumer Contact: One Twenty Clothing Company US LLC toll-free at 888-764-7763 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, email at [prod-uct.recall@candypinkgirls.com](mailto:prod-uct.recall@candypinkgirls.com), or online at [www.candypinkgirls.com](http://www.candypinkgirls.com) and click on "Safety Recall" at the bottom of the page for more information on how to receive a refund.



## UPPAbaby Recalls Adapters Included with RumbleSeats Due to Child Fall Hazard



UPPAbaby online at <https://uppababy.com/rumbleseat-adapters/> and click on "Submit Info" at the bottom of the page or go to <https://uppababy.com> and click on "Click to read more" next to the recall announcement. For more information call toll-free at 844-823-3132 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday.



## Walgreens Recalls Disney Baby Winnie the Pooh Rattle Sets Due to Choking Hazard

Consumer Contact: Walgreens at 800-925-4733 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or online at [www.walgreens.com](http://www.walgreens.com) and click on "Contact Us" at the bottom of the page for more information.

## Birkenstock USA Recalls Kids' Mogami Sandals Due to Choking Hazard



Birkenstock USA toll-free at 844-505-4055 Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET or online at [www.birkenstock.com](http://www.birkenstock.com) and click on "Recall Information" for more information.

## Academy Sports + Outdoors Recalls Ozone 500 Girls' and Boys' Elevate 24-Inch Bicycles Due to Fall and Injury Hazards



Consumer Contact: Academy Sports + Outdoors toll-free at 888-922-2336 from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CT daily, email at [customerservice@academy.com](mailto:customerservice@academy.com), or online at [www.academy.com](http://www.academy.com) and click on "Product Recalls" at the bottom of the page for more information.

## Children's Pajamas Recalled Due to Violation of Federal Flammability Standard and Burn Hazard; Manufactured by Tkala Fashion; Sold Exclusively on Amazon.com

Consumer Contact: Tkala Fashion email [tkalafashion@163.com](mailto:tkalafashion@163.com) or online at [www.tkalafashion.com](http://www.tkalafashion.com) and click on "Recall Notice" at the top of the page for more information on how to receive a refund.



## 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.

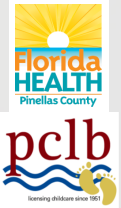
<https://www.cpsc.gov/>



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## Creative Corner

Fun, educational activities kids LOVE

Featuring the book **"All of A Sudden"** by Geraldine Butler  
CEO and Director of Accelerated Learning Centers of America

"I wrote *"All of A Sudden"* to help explain to children how COVID-19 can affect them. As an educator, I saw that many children were forced to attempt a different way of life and it needed to be explained to them. No one was taking the time to explain the why's and why not's of doing things in a different way than before. Children were only hearing "COVID-19, pandemic, wear your masks and no hugs."

I read the book to the children in my center to help them understand why all of a sudden, their world changed around them. The children love the book and the fact that they personally know the main character, my granddaughter, so they can relate. When COVID started, we taught the children about the pandemic during "Being Safe Time," for ten minutes every class. We acted things out because children trust their teachers. I also published a coloring book for our kids at Accelerated Learning Centers of America (ALCA).

*All of A Sudden* is a book teachers can read to kids during circle time, an older sibling can read to a younger sibling, a parent can read to a child, or a child can read on their own."



Geraldine Butler

For more information on  
how to obtain this book,  
please email:

[acclearnamerica@yahoo.com](mailto:acclearnamerica@yahoo.com)



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

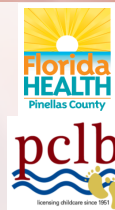
Geraldine Butler is an early education provider and business owner that resides in the southeastern area of the United States. Throughout her life, she has been the parent of several foster children, a mother, grandmother and a friend to all. Geraldine continues to contribute an overwhelming amount of her time to helping others and making society a better place. As the CEO and Director of Accelerated Learning Centers of America, Geraldine Butler has been determined to help change the way that early childhood learning is implemented on a day-to-day basis. Thank you for reading this book to your child because by doing so, you are participating in a more informative way of educating our little ones.





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## Child Care Licensing Program

Florida Department of Health in Pinellas

8751 Ulmerton Road, Suite 2000

Largo, Florida 33771

**727-507-4857** **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**



## CINDY ODETTE, Licensing Specialist



**"I have always had compassion for children. Over my past fifteen years of employment, I have been very involved with the protection of children."**

**S** was a Child Protection Investigator (CPI) with Pinellas County Sheriff's Office for 10 years. After retiring, I worked at a day care center for two and a half years, so I was very familiar with Child Care Licensing. When I got word there was an opening with PCLB, I applied and here I am. I have been a Licensing Specialist for about five years. My favorite aspect of working here, first and foremost, is my relationship with my peers and the knowledge we share. I also enjoy getting to know all the providers that take care of our children throughout Pinellas County and being able to observe how they care for and teach our children.

I have held many positions throughout my working career, most of them during my 30 years in law enforcement. I've been a Corrections Officer, a Road Deputy, a Communication Officer, and the Administrator of a Pre-Release Center. The last 10 years in law enforcement, I was a Child Protection Investigator.

I don't come from a large family but I certainly don't come from a small one. I have two older siblings who are married, four nieces, one nephew, three great nieces

and one great nephew. My 94-year old mom is the famous matriarch of her family and of her independent living facility!

I am originally from upstate New York, outside of Albany and resided there for the first 25 years of my life. The last 15 years, I have lived in Florida but prior to that I have also lived in Massachusetts and California.

I really enjoy getting my hands dirty in the garden when I am not at work. I also love family activities. My adorable puppies are named Socks and Snickers, both dachshunds that are actual brothers.

I believe the qualities of a great provider are being loving, caring, patient, supportive, and having strong knowledge of regulations and requirements.

I'd like to say that over the past five years, I have had the privilege to work with wonderful people from peers to Center Directors, staff and in-home providers. I have found that each and every individual is a strong advocate for the care of our children in Pinellas County.

