

CHILDREN'S CENTERS FALL EDITION

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Lisa Zacharia

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NEW

All of us at PCLB are very happy that the first week of school is in the books and we hope your new school year is off to a great start!

Lately, our Licensing Specialists have been asked to make lots of licensing changes during their inspections to take effect before the new school year. Starting next year, we are going to ask that change applications be sent in before July 1, to ensure the changes are met before school starts. All change applications received after July 1, will have no guarantee of being finished before the new school year. We license almost 300 Centers so it's extremely difficult to ensure that all change requests are met with our current staff of Licensing Specialists. Here are a few things to remember when requesting a change:

- If you are increasing staff, space, bathrooms, or equipment, please have all paperwork prepared and submitted.
- Building, Fire, and Electrical inspections must be submitted to your Licensing Specialist in a timely manner.
- A Licensing Specialist cannot make an appointment to come out to make the change until they receive all of the above items.

If you have any questions, please call your Licensing Specialist at 727.507.4857.



Faith Bornoff, M.Ed.
Executive Director



To Hire or Not to Hire

At times when it is hard to find qualified staff, it can be tempting to hire the wrong staff. If you fall into this temptation, you may be putting the children and your business at risk. There are some things you can do to help ensure the candidate you are considering will be a good addition to your team.

Check References-Be sure to check references thoroughly. Call several times and if you cannot reach them, ask the candidate to help you get in touch with their reference. It is a best practice to call past employers, even if it has been more than five years, to see if they are rehire-able.

Clearinghouse Roster-For the Clearinghouse Roster to be an effective tool, it is imperative that you add/remove employees within 10 days of hiring or firing them. If these rosters are kept up to date, they can be a great tool in checking for accuracy in employment history.

Always check to see if there are programs listed on the clearinghouse roster that the candidate did not disclose to you on their employment application. If you discover additional employers listed, be sure to ask the candidate why these programs were not listed on their application. Then call these additional places for a reference. There may be a reason the candidate chose not to list them as a former employer.

PCLB Licensing File Review- Sometimes when you call for a reference, you may be told that they are only able to give you employment dates but no reference. When this happens, you should ask the past employer if there is anything in the PCLB licensing file that will help you make your decision. If they answer yes, you can choose to call our office to review that center's file before proceeding with hiring the candidate.

You may even be employed at a center that only allows limited information to be shared when you receive a call for a reference. If permitted by your employer, you can always recommend that the person contact our office to do a file review of your program. This will allow the potential employer to make an educated decision based on the experiences in your file.

With your diligence, you can help to protect the children of Pinellas County by making good hiring decisions.

Faith



INFLUENZA VIRUS

Influenza Brochures and Distracted Adult Driver flyers once again need to be distributed this fall. Why not do both in September at the same time, satisfying both regulations and making it easier on families and staff to keep track? You can use the paper copies 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.



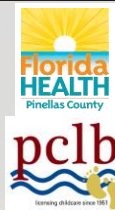
Visits from Child Care Licensing can take place anytime and more than twice per year. Entry must be granted.

QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County



Centers
Fall



Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County NEWS FROM EPIDEMIOLOGY

Monkeypox Infection and Prevention

Since May 2022, the United States has been experiencing an outbreak of monkeypox. As of August 18, over 1,300 cases have been reported in Florida. While the case data collected currently shows transmission is higher among men who have sex with men, anyone can catch the virus through close face-to-face or skin-to-skin contact. Furthermore, there have been confirmed reports of children being infected following close contact, which includes holding, cuddling, feeding, as well as through shared bedding and utensils, from a caregiver or household member. Recently, health officials in Illinois investigated a daycare worker who was diagnosed with monkeypox and potentially exposed several children to the virus.



Monkeypox is a disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. Symptoms normally last for 2-4 weeks and include fever, headache, swollen lymph nodes and rash

that looks like pimples or blisters. Individuals who are infected are likely to survive, however, people with weakened immune systems, children under 8 years of age, people with a history of eczema, and people who are pregnant or breastfeeding may be more likely to get seriously ill. Monkeypox is spread through direct contact, respiratory droplets and less commonly contact with objects that were touched by an infected person.

People who think they have monkeypox or have had close personal contact with someone who has monkeypox should visit a healthcare provider to help them decide if they need to be tested. Treatment and vaccines are available for monkeypox. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has ap-



proved the Jynneos monkeypox vaccine to be given to people under the age of 18 who have been exposed to the virus, including children who were exposed to a known case.

Despite the mode of transmission and increasing cases, risk for spread in a childcare center is still low at this time. General hygiene guidelines such as sanitizing, disinfecting, and excluding children and staff for signs or symptoms of illness are still effective ways to prevent disease transmission in childcare centers. Continue encouraging hand hygiene practices and cough and sneeze etiquette. It is also a good idea to develop and follow a regular cleaning and disinfecting schedule for the entire facility, including toys and shared bedding.

REFERENCES

Florida Department of Health, Monkeypox: <https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/monkeypox/index.html>

CDC 2022 U.S. Monkeypox Outbreak <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/faq.html>

Illinois daycare worker with monkeypox might have exposed children, officials say <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/illinois-daycare-worker-monkeypox-might-exposed-children-officials-say-rcna41814>

Image: CDC.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](https://www.PinellasHealth.com)

QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County



Centers
Fall



Centers
Monthly
Trainings

RECORD KEEPING FOR CHILDREN'S CENTERS

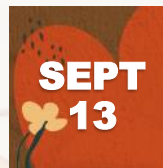
Is a four and a half (4 1/2) hour training comprised of an overview of regulations regarding record keeping including personnel, children, and facility records. Participants will receive a training packet that includes required and optional forms and learn practical ideas for setting up and maintaining 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 inservice training will be issued.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$40.00 Prepaid non-refundable fee due prior to training

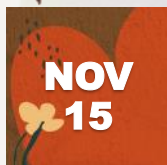
TIME: 8:30 AM. – 1:00 PM

LOCATION: Pinellas County Health Department, 8751 Ulmerton Road, Largo, Florida, 2nd floor Conference Room

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



Please call to register.



Please call to register.

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 inservice training will be issued.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$25.00 Prepaid non-refundable fee due prior to training

TIME: 9:00 AM. – 1:00 PM

LOCATION: Pinellas County Health Department, 8751 Ulmerton Road, Largo Florida, 2nd floor Conference Room

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

PINELLAS DIRECTOR'S BASICS

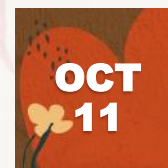
Is a three (3) hour training required for new directors who have not been directors previously in Pinellas County or have not been a director in Pinellas County in the last 12 months. This course is designed to foster success by covering regulations unique to Pinellas County, our website as a resource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

REGISTRATION FEE: \$25.00 Prepaid non-refundable fee due prior to training

TIME: 9:00 AM. – 12:00 Noon

LOCATION: Pinellas County Health Department, 8751 Ulmerton Road, Largo Florida, 2nd floor Conference Room

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



Please call to register.

Call the CCLP office prior to the training dates if you need to reschedule in order to avoid repaying the registration fee. Any person with a disability requiring reasonable accommodations can call the CCLP office no later than two (2) weeks prior to the training.

Children's Center Training Registration Form

Registration form and prepaid non-refundable fee due prior to training

***Please call to register.**

☐ Record Keeping for Children's Centers \$40.00

☐ Director's Orientation for Infant Care \$25.00

☐ Pinellas Director's Basics \$25.00

Name (Please Print): _____ Telephone: _____

Center Name: _____

Street, City, & Zip Code: _____

Date of Training: _____ Fee Enclosed: _____

QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County



Centers
Fall



First Choice Glass Baby Bottles Recalled by NUK Due to Violation of the Federal Lead Content Ban; Sold Exclusively on Amazon.com (Recall Alert)

NUK toll-free at 888-685-1238 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, online at www.recall.nuk-usa.com, or a www.nuk-usa.com and click on RECALL at the top of the page for more information.



The Manhattan Toy Company Recalls Activity Loops Toys for Infants Due to Choking Hazard

Website: <https://www.manhattantoy.com/pages/recall-information>

E-mail: help@manhattantoy.com

Phone: (800) 541-1345



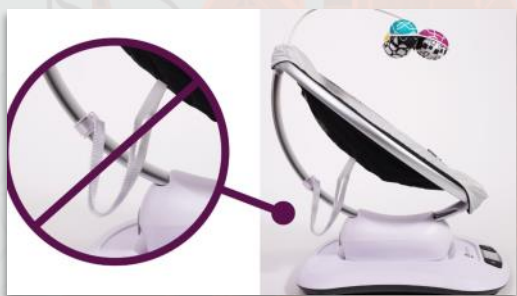
Epoch Everlasting Play Recalls Kidoozie Play Tents and Playhouses Due to Flammability Risk and Burn



Epoch Everlasting Play at 800-631-1272 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ET Monday through Friday, email at productsafety@epocheverlastingplay.com or online www.epocheverlastingplay.com/recalls or www.epocheverlastingplay.com and click on "Recalls" on the top menu for more information.

4moms Recalls More than 2 Million MamaRoo and RockaRoo Infant Swings and Rockers Due to Entanglement and Strangulation Hazards; One Death



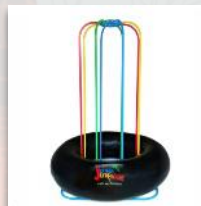
4moms toll-free at 877-870-7390 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, by email at safetyandrecall@4moms.com or online at <https://www.4momsrecall.expertinquiry.com> or <https://www.4moms.com> and click on SAFETY & RECALL at the top of the page for more information. 4moms is contacting all known purchasers directly.

Scholastic Recalls Shake Look Touch Books Due to Choking Hazard

Scholastic toll-free at 888-724-1872 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, online at www.recallrtr.com/slt or www.scholastic.com/slt or www.scholastic.com and click on "Product Safety" at the bottom of the page for more information.



Jungle Jumperoo Recalls Children's Toys Due to Violation of the Federal Lead Content Ban (Recall Alert)



Jungle Jumperoo toll-free at 888-980-5867 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. MT Monday through Friday, online at www.JungleJumperoo.com/alert or www.JungleJumperoo.com and click on Recall Alert at the top of the page for more information.

Target Recalls Children's Cat & Jack Unicorn Cozy Pajama Sets Due to Burn Hazard

Phone: (800) 440-0680

Website: www.target.com



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



<https://thelearningfort.org>

CALL 727.223.4297 M-F 12-2

Our activity at The Learning Fort was about bees and why they are important for the environment. The children also learned about the life cycle of bees and tasted honey. Then, they created their own honeycombs.



honey

QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County



Centers
Fall



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

Board Spotlight

Mike Mikurak

PCLB Board Chair

In August of 2013, former Governor Rick Scott appointed me to the Board of Directors of the Juvenile Welfare Board. I became the Chairman of JWB in 2021-2022, for a two year term. It is very rewarding to be part of the JWB team and witness the value it offers the children of our community through extended child care, food, and most importantly, education. JWB provides our children with a safe place to learn, grow and become valued citizens of our community.

My favorite part of being involved in the welfare of children is the ability to help and impact the lives of the most underserved children of our community. My least favorite aspect of it is that we are unable to directly meet and reach every child single child.

I feel that great child care providers offer loving care and treat children as if they are their own flesh and blood. They are people that understand that all children deserve a nurturing environment. They share their own life experiences to provide children with role models and make them feel like family during the ups and downs of life.

They provide guidance, loving care and shelter. Great child care providers are very unique people to say the least, and they deserve our thanks and support for the service they provide.



Mike Mikurak, left

In 2000, my family and I moved to Pinellas County from New Jersey, where we are from. My wife Elaine and I have three children and two grandchildren, all currently living in Pinellas County. Our children have very different and successful careers. Our oldest son is a Project Director for an environmental company. Our daughter is a Guidance Counselor with Pinellas County Schools and our youngest son is a business owner in downtown St. Petersburg. We also have two grandchildren that are in 8th and 3rd grades respectively and attend Pinellas County Schools.

I retired back in 2003, as a Founding Partner of Accenture, PLC. Since then, I have had a number of roles in the community as part of the Board of Directors of BayCare Health System, St. Anthony's Hospital, The Science Center of Pinellas County, Career Source, The JWB, PCLB, and ELC. I am also the Chairman of the Board of a startup company in Pinellas County. So, when I am not enjoying giving back my time in support of our community, I enjoy playing golf, boating, traveling and socializing with friends.



Mike Mikurak, second from left

I want to personally thank Center and Home child care providers for all you do for the children in our community. Your willingness to step up and provide high quality care to so many children is commendable and that will never be forgotten.

God bless you all. **Mike Mikurak**