



QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County



Winter 2022
Volume 5
Issue 4

CHILDREN'S CENTERS

WINTER EDITION



Employment History Checks

By Tammy Sharpe, Centers Supervisor

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Employer Name: _____
 Facility Name: _____
 Date: _____

List all of your previous employment for the past 5 years with specific dates.
 Employer name, address, phone number, dates of employment, and position held.

1. Employer Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Dates of employment: _____
 Position held: _____

2. Employer Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Dates of employment: _____
 Position held: _____

3. Employer Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Dates of employment: _____
 Position held: _____

We'd like to share some reminders about the regulations on *Employment History Checks* with you as this year comes to a close.

- All 5-year employee history checks should be taken very seriously. It is a regulation that they be completed for all employees.
- 5-year employee history checks should be completed before hiring by calling the employers listed, verifying past employment, and comparing the information to what's listed on the bottom of a Background Screening. For example, if an applicant says they were a stay-at-home mom or were self-employed for two years and their background screening shows two different jobs listed during that time, the application is not filled out correctly.



We highly suggest you work to find the reason an applicant is not listing all past employment before thinking about hiring them to work with children and represent your center. You could do this by calling the employers listed on the background screening, or by doing a file review in our office.

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

727.507.4857

The staff of Pinellas County License Board wishes you and yours a joyous holiday season!

Tammy

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Lisa Zacharia



Faith Bornoff, M.Ed.
Executive Director



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'Tis The Season!



It's that time of year when holiday decorations come out and excitement is in the air. It is also the time when questions about having poinsettias in licensed Children's Centers and Family Child Care Homes arise.

Poinsettias are not actually a poisonous plant, so they are allowed in Children's Centers and Family Child Care Homes. Because they may cause stomach irritation or pose a choking hazard, they should be kept out of reach of children in the licensed space, out of an abundance of caution. This refers to any space used by the children. Areas not used by the children, such as porches or public entrances could have poinsettias displayed at any height as the children would not be in group care in these spaces. Here is an article from the National Capital Poison Control that tells you everything you need to know about Poinsettias.

<https://www.poison.org/articles/2014-dec/poinsettias>

Faith



QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

Centers
Winter



NEWS FROM EPIDEMIOLOGY

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infection & Prevention

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. Most people are able to manage the symptoms at home and recover within a week or two. Infants and older adults, especially those with underlying health conditions, are at a higher risk for severe illness and poor outcomes after infection.

RSV is spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes and the virus droplets make contact with your eyes, nose or mouth. An infected individual can be contagious from three to eight days or longer in some cases. RSV circulates throughout the United States annually and most RSV activity is observed during the Fall and Winter. Florida tends to experience an earlier season onset and longer duration than other areas of the country.

RSV can be very dangerous for young children. Early symptoms in children may include runny nose, decrease in appetite and cough and later infection presents as bronchiolitis and pneumonia. If infection leads to hospitalization, treatment includes oxygen, IV fluids and supportive care.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) surveillance has identified an increase in RSV



www.CDC.gov

At this time, there is no vaccine for RSV. If you have contact with infants or young children, you can take these steps to keep yourself and them healthy:

1. Wash your hands. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
2. Avoid close contact with people who may be sick.
3. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
4. Stay home if you are sick and keep children home if they are experiencing symptoms.
5. Cover your mouth and nose when sneezing. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.

Questions related to RSV outbreaks can be directed to Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County, Epidemiology Program at :

727-824-6932

RSV in Infants and Young Children

Respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, is a common virus that affects the lungs and breathing passages

Each year in the United States, an estimated 58,000–80,000 children younger than 5 years old are hospitalized due to RSV infection. Those at greatest risk for severe illness from RSV include:

- Premature infants
- Infants, especially those 6 months and younger
- Children younger than 2 years old with chronic lung disease or congenital (present from birth) heart disease
- Children with weakened immune systems
- Children who have neuromuscular disorders, including those who have difficulty swallowing or clearing mucus secretions

Early Symptoms of RSV

RSV may not be severe when it first starts. However, it can become more severe a few days into the illness. Early symptoms of RSV may include:

- Runny nose
- Decrease in appetite
- Cough, which may progress to wheezing or difficulty breathing

Call your healthcare provider if your child is having difficulty breathing, not drinking enough fluids, or experiencing worsening symptoms.

Severe RSV Infection

Virtually all children get an RSV infection by the time they are 2 years old. Most of the time RSV will cause a mild, cold-like illness, but it can also cause severe illness such as:

- Bronchiolitis (inflammation of the small airways in the lung)
 - Pneumonia (infection of the lungs)
- One to two out of every 100 children younger than 6 months of age with RSV infection may need to be hospitalized. Those who are hospitalized may require oxygen, IV fluids (if they aren't eating and drinking), and/or mechanical ventilation (a machine to help with breathing). Most improve with this type of supportive care and are discharged in a few days.

Medication for Babies at High Risk

There is a medicine that can help protect some babies at high risk for severe RSV disease. Healthcare providers usually give this medicine (called palivizumab) to very

www.cdc.gov/rsv



Premature infants and young children with certain heart and lung conditions as a series of monthly shots during RSV season. If you are concerned about your child's risk for severe RSV infection, talk to your child's healthcare provider.

RSV in Very Young Infants

Infants who get an RSV infection almost always show symptoms. This is different from adults who can have few or no symptoms with RSV infection. In very young infants (less than 6 months old), the only symptoms of RSV infection may be:

- Irritability
- Decreased activity
- Decreased appetite
- Apnea (pauses in breathing more than 10 seconds)

What you should do if your child is at high risk for severe RSV infection

RSV season in most regions of the U.S. starts in the fall and peaks in the winter. If you have contact with an infant or young child, especially those who were born prematurely, have chronic lung or heart disease or a weakened immune system, you should take extra care to keep the infant healthy by doing the following:

- Wash your hands often
- Keep your hands off your face
- Avoid close contact with sick people
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect surfaces
- Stay home when you are sick



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

November 2023

emergency department visits and hospitalizations across the US. Currently in Florida, a higher number of reported cases and pediatric emergency department visits have been observed compared to previous years.

Parents should call their healthcare provider if their child is sick with RSV and having difficulty breathing or worsening symptoms. Childcare providers should monitor for illness in their facility and report any outbreaks to their local health department.

Additional information related to RSV and current trends can be found here:

[Respiratory Syncytial Virus Surveillance | Florida Department of Health \(floridahealth.gov\)](https://www.floridahealth.gov)

[RSV \(Respiratory Syncytial Virus\) | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)

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
Winter**



**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

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: _____

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Tangame Busy Toy Houses Recalled Due to Violation of Federal Lead Paint, Lead Content, and Phthalate Content Bans; Lead Poisoning Hazard and Risk of Phthalate Exposure; Imported by Tangame Toys; Sold Exclusively at Amazon.com

Contact Tangame Toys via email at 824603123@qq.com.



Bike USA Recalls Punisher Cycling Helmets Due to Risk of Head Injury (Recall Alert)



Children's Sleepwear Recalled Due to Violation of Federal Flammability Standards and Burn Hazard; Imported by Jammers Apparel Group; Sold Exclusively at JCPenney



Contact Jammers Apparel Group, toll-free at 888-526-6377 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET or email at recall@jammers.com or online at <https://www.jcpenney.com/m/customer-service/product-recalls> or www.jcpenney.com and click on "Recalls" within the "Customer Service" section for more information.

Anker Play Products Recalls Bolt Foldable Children's Scooters Due to Violation of Federal Lead Paint Ban; Lead Poisoning Hazard



Anker Play Products toll-free at 877-236-1945 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, by email at customerservice@ankerpp.com or online at <http://www.ankerpp.com/recall-scooter/> or www.ankerpp.com and click on "Recalls" for more information.

Early Learning Centre Little Senses Lights & Sounds Shape Sorter Toys Due to Choking Hazard; Manufactured by Addo Play; Sold Exclusively at Amazon.com

Just Play toll-free at 888-974-9477 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, email at hello@addoplay.com, or visit <https://www.addoplay.com/product-safety-notices/> or <https://www.addoplay.com> and click on "Product Safety Notices" located at the bottom of the page for more information.



Bike USA Inc. at 800-225-2453 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET Monday thru Friday, email at customerservice@bikeusainc.com or online at <https://bikeusainc.com/helmet-recall-notice> or www.bikeusainc.com and click on "Helmet Recall Notice" at the Side of the homepage.

TJX Recalls Baby Blankets Due to Choking, Entrapment and Strangulation Hazards



Marshalls toll-free at 888-627-7425 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or online at <https://www.marshalls.com/us/store/jump/topic/Product-Recalls/2400019> or www.marshalls.com and click on "Product Recalls" at the bottom of the page for more information;

T.J. Maxx at 800-926-6299 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or online at <https://tjmaxx.tjx.com/store/jump/topic/product-recalls/2400019> or www.tjmaxx.com and click on "Product Recalls" at the bottom of the page for more information;

HomeGoods at 800-888-0776 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or online at <https://www.homegoods.com/us/store/jump/topic/find-help/our-product-2400009#productrecalls> or www.homegoods.com and click on "Product Recalls" at the bottom of the page for more information. Consumers can also email customer service at customerservice@tjx.com.

Baby Trend Recalls Cityscape Travel Jogger Strollers Due to Fall and Injury Hazards (Recall Alert)



Baby Trend at 800-328-7363 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. PT Monday through Friday, e-mail info@babytrend.com, or online at <https://babytrend.com/pages/safety-notices> or www.babytrend.com and click on "PRODUCT RECALLS" at the top 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/>

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Creative Corner

Fun, educational activities kids LOVE!

At Sweet Peas Preschool, We Love Getting Our Hands Into The Dirt!

By Amber Britner, Director

Our Natural Science Program focuses on *gardening, composting and recycling*. We feel it's important to teach children where food comes from and how to keep our earth healthy.

Children are involved in every process of gardening; from preparing the soil, working with the composter, planting seeds, weeding, watering and finally harvesting!



During our vegetable harvest, we read the book "Growing Vegetable Soup" by Lois Ehlert. The vegetables are used to make a delicious vege-



table soup that the entire school enjoys for afternoon snack! It's amazing what children will eat when they have grown it themselves!

We connect outdoor learning with art projects in the classroom. Sprout houses placed in classroom windows allow the children to watch the roots grow. And, an artistic rendering of our vegetable garden is displayed in the hallway!

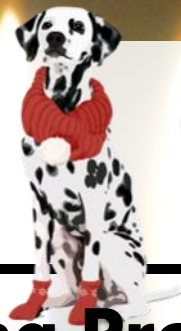


We also have classroom pets, a chicken coop and aquaponics program!



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Winter



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



Staff Spotlight



Deija Newins

Licensing Specialist

After 20 years of working as a child care Center Director, I decided it was time for a change. I've been in my new position at Child Care Licensing for about a month and every day I learn so much.

Prior to joining the staff, I was the Director of a school-age program in Safety Harbor for over three years. I even owned a center in the Boston, Massachusetts area for 15 years before moving down to Florida over four years ago.

I am married, have four children and two rescue dogs. My youngest son is 16 and a high school junior. The other three are already grown.

All of my free time is spent watching my son play high school baseball and helping him find

a college where he can continue playing. I also love watching football. Go Bucs!

I truly respect providers that give their hearts and homes to children in care. I love seeing the time and energy spent to make sure the children are happy and safe.

I feel that a great child care center has supportive and caring staff, happy children and families, and an organized Director that holds it all together.

I look forward to getting to know Center and Home providers in Pinellas County and wish you and your family wonderful holidays!

"I love meeting new people and seeing all of the creative ways that directors and teachers run their programs. It has been a busy first month for me at Child Care Licensing and I have enjoyed it all!"

Deija

