

Pinellas County License Board for Children's Centers & Family Child Care Homes

Our mission is 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

Faith Bornoff, M.Ed., Executive Director
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Family Child Care Home Tip Sheet on Fire Drills

- Licensing Regulations Governing Pinellas County Family Child Care Homes and Large Family Child Care Homes requires that you take your daily attendance with you as you and the children exit the home during a fire drill. You may want to have a plastic, canvas or vinyl bag containing a sheet with emergency phone numbers and contacts, stored near your daily attendance so that you can quickly grab both items as you head out the door with the children. A charged cell phone containing emergency phone numbers would also be very helpful to have with you.
- Fires can happen in any area of the home. Practice your alternate route at least once a year as well as a naptime fire drill. Children can be disoriented after being awakened abruptly. When practiced routinely, the fire drill will run smoothly.
- Test the smoke alarm when conducting a fire drill. The piercing repetitious sound is exactly what the children will hear if there is a real fire emergency, and you want them to respond to the routines you have already established.
- You may want to have a wagon, a narrow playpen with wheels, or a stroller ready to help you evacuate infants and toddlers when practicing fire drills. It is difficult to evacuate more than one infant as well as several ambulatory children at the same time and by yourself. Review your plan when you enroll a new child so that everyone's safety will be assured.
- Consider where you will take the children when you leave the home. Is it in front of your house where the fire truck will be if there is a true emergency? Or is the location near a busy street so children could be in jeopardy when standing there during the emergency? Think of a safe place for you to relocate should a real emergency occur so that you and the children are safely out of harm's way.
- It is important to evacuate the home quickly and safely. Time your fire drill and evaluate how the drill went once it is over. Adjust your procedure to ensure everyone's safety. Remember to fully document the fire drills and keep the fire drill record on file for a minimum of one year

