



QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

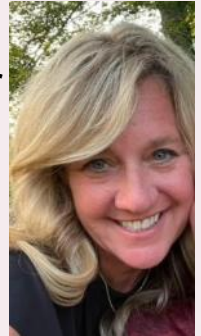


Summer
2024
Volume 7
Issue 2

FAMILY CHILD CARE CENTER SUMMER EDITION

Tammy's Tips

By Tammy Sharpe, Supervisor



Time for summer already? That was fast!

We wanted to highlight that as of January 1, 2024, **DCF has shrunk the timeline** providers must have **staff on/off** the Clearinghouse roster with a timeframe of **five (5) days**.

We wanted to make sure you were aware of **Preserve Vision Florida**, www.pvfla.org. This is a **free program** that will come to your center and screen children for free! This is a great way to have these kids screened before they get into school and any problems are missed. You can reach out to Jennifer Whittington at jwhittington@pvfla.org to schedule a screening. See page 7 of this newsletter for more information.

Reminder that per regulation, **all sippy cups and water bottles** brought from home must be labeled with **children's first and last names**. Sippy cups and water bottles brought into the center from outside must go home with the child **every day**.

Please be sure that foods served to children are age appropriate and not a choking hazard. Children under 4 years of age must not be served things such as hotdogs, popcorn, chips, pretzel nuggets, whole grapes, nuts, cheese cubes/sticks and any other food that is similar to the size and shape of the trachea. Food for **infants** must be cut into pieces **1/4 inch or smaller**. Food for **toddlers** must be cut into pieces **1/2 inch or smaller**. This applies to all food items, including those brought in by parents/guardians. Please see this website for help and guidance on food and snacks: <https://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/childrens-health/child-care-food-program/nutrition/>.

With the many installations of new outdoor play equipment, we ask that you please **keep all paperwork, guides, manufacturing notes, and instructions** associated with the equipment. All paperwork, receipts, etc., **for turf/ground coverings** must be kept and available as well. This will be helpful if a specialist needs to verify at any time that the equipment is age appropriate.

Please be sure that all **training transcripts are updated** for all employees with any new training classes that are completed. This does include the 2 new classes required by ELC.

When filling out your **renewal application** yearly, please be sure to check the boxes of which **services your center provides**. Taking a moment to do this step is very helpful to our office staff, as well as gets the information into CARES.

When you are due for a **fire inspection**, please note that you are responsible for calling your local fire department and scheduling the inspection. We are hearing that you need to plan on scheduling the appointment **2 months in advance**. Please keep track of all correspondence between the center and the fire department.

Continued next page

QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

Centers
Summer



Continued

Please be sure you **let licensing know** if you are going to be **closed**. If it is around the time that you are due for an inspection it is even more important to let us know, even if it is just for a day. This information is very helpful to our staff.

As always, as the **hot summer** approaches, be aware of little feet on bare pavement or asphalt, as the sun heating these up can cause burns. When you do take the children outside, shade **and lots of water breaks** are needed and **kiddie pools are not permitted**. Any standing water of any kind can cause a child to drown. Please check your play areas carefully.

If you have any incidents or accidents, **please call the office at 727-507-4857**. Do not call or email your specialist directly.

We hope this summer the fun heats up and not the weather! If you have questions or concerns, we are in the office 8am-5pm Monday—Friday (except state holidays), and there is always a **specialist on call** for you to talk to. Feel free to give us a call: 727-507-4857.



Tammy

SUMMER



QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

Centers
Summer



Faith's Food For Thought



Faith Bornoff, M.Ed.
Executive Director

With summer right around the corner, this is a good time to revisit toxic items. It is always surprising the items that are toxic to children, which is why label reading is so important.

We are getting to that time of year where sunscreen is used a lot. Please be sure to take the time to put the sunscreen away and/or out of reach of children after applications. We know it is easier to have it handy, especially if applying it to



multiple children, however in the blink of an eye a child can ingest sunscreen. Making a plan ahead of time to have a location to apply sunscreen near an area where a high shelf or cabinet is a good way to start the habit of always keeping it out of reach, thus avoiding problems and violations.



Blowing bubbles in the summer is another fun activity to do in the shade during the heat of the day with children. This is also another area you must be careful to know what is in the bubble solution you are using. There are non-toxic solutions available for purchasing, and there are many recipes out there for making non-toxic bubble solution. Having the kids make a non-toxic bubble solution and then letting them use it extends the fun for everyone. Pinterest and Google are great places to find recipes for this.

Something we see during inspections on a regular basis are access to adults purses and/or bags. This is a treasure trove of toxic items for children. Everything from hand sanitizer, to pain relievers to prescription medication (and more) can be in these. When starting work for the day, please be sure your own items are locked up and/or out of reach. If you see someone else's items within children's reach, please say something.



And finally, as always, all cleaning product must be kept out of the reach of children at all times. These are some of the most dangerous to children, so being aware of where cleaning products are if they are removed from their normal storage area is something we all must practice. Once the product is no longer being used, return it to its proper place immediately.

Please keep the number to The National Poison Control Center handy at all times:

800-222-1222

POISON CONTROL
National Capital Poison Center

HAPPY
SUMMER

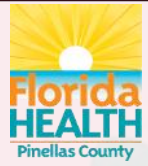
Faith



QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

Centers
Summer



NEWS FROM EPIDEMIOLOGY World Hygiene Day

May 5 is recognized as World Hand Hygiene Day!

HAND WASHING

Stay healthy. Wash your hands!



Researchers estimate that if everyone routinely washed their hands, 1 million deaths a year could be prevented.

Washing your hands is important and vital in preventing the spread of germs. Here are some important instances when to wash your hands to help control the spread of illness:

- After using the bathroom
- After coughing or sneezing
- After cleaning a child who has gone to the bathroom
- After touching books and money
- Before preparing food
- Before eating
- After petting an animal

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Clean Hands Count campaign aims to:

- Improve healthcare provider adherence to CDC hand hygiene recommendations
- Address the myths and misperceptions about hand hygiene
- Empower patients to play a role in their care by asking or reminding healthcare providers to clean their hands

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are 5 Moments of Hand Hygiene for healthcare providers. If you are a provider, see if you can fill in the blanks for the attached document!

Remember,
Stay healthy. Wash your hands!



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

727-824-6932

QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

Centers
Summer



UPCOMING 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) hours of annual in-service training will be issued.

Registration Fee: \$40 prepaid prior to training, non-refundable
Class Time: 9:00am—1:00pm

Tues June
11

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 in-service training will be issued.

Registration Fee: \$25 pre-paid prior to training, non-refundable
Time: 9:00am—12:00pm

Tues July
9

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 in-service training will be issued.

Registration Fee: \$25 pre-paid prior to training, non-refundable
Class time: 9:00am—1:00pm

Tues Aug
6

All classes are held at 8751 Ulmerton Road, Largo 33774

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

Call the CCLP office prior to class if you need to reschedule in order to avoid repaying the registration fee.

Any persons with a disability requiring reasonable accommodations should call the CCLP office no later than two (2) weeks prior to the training.

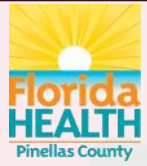
Please call 727-507-4857 to register for a class.



QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

**Centers
Summer**



Cotton On USA recalled **Toy Pinwheels** due to choking hazard, this toy was given away.

Consumer Contact:

E-Mail: customerenquiries@cottonon.com
website: <https://cottonon.com/US/product-recall.html>
Phone: 844-319-5970

Igloo Products recalled **Youth Sipper Bottles** due to choking hazard.

Consumer Information:

E-Mail: customerservice@shop.igloocoolers.com
website: <http://www.igloocoolers.com/recalls>
Phone: 800-273-7024



Crate & Barrell recalled **Hampshire Crib**s due to fall hazard.

Consumer Contact:

website: <https://www.crateandbarrel.com/customer-service/product-recalls>
Phone: 800-967-6696



Yoto recalled **Yoto Mini Speaker** for Children due to burn and fire hazards.

Consumer contact:

website: <https://us.yotoplay.com/recall>
email: minihelp@yotoplay.com
Phone: 844-370-0423

CPSC Consumer Information Hotline

Contact 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/>



QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

Centers
Summer



Preserve Vision Florida: Florida's Leader in Preserving Sight

Founded in 1957, Preserve Vision Florida is a non-profit organization offering vision education and services to Florida's children and adults. Our focus is promoting a lifetime of healthy vision care through advocacy, education, screening and research.

Our mission is to promote healthy vision through:

- Vision health awareness and education for all ages
- [Vision screenings](#) for children and adults
- Assistance to obtain medical eye care
- Advocacy for vision and medical eye care health services

Preserve Vision Florida provides hundreds of vision screenings, and will do events that are not open to the public. If you would like to book free vision screening in your home day care, please [email Jennifer Whittington](#)

Vision Disabilities

- Vision disability is one of the top 10 disabilities among adults 18 years and older and one of the most prevalent disabling conditions among children.



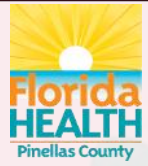
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Child Care Licensing Program
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

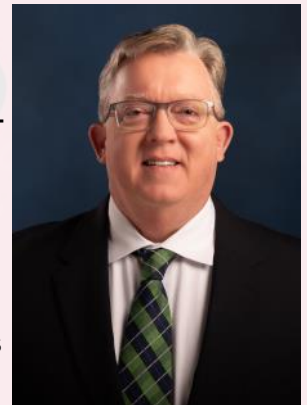
Centers
Summer



Board Member Spotlight

Charlie Justice
Pinellas County Commissioner
Representative

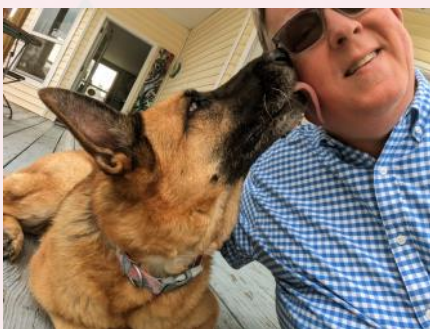
Recently **Commissioner Charlie Justice** was appointed to the Pinellas County Licensing Board as a member from the Board of County Commissioners. A Pinellas Native, Commissioner Charlie Justice was born and raised in St. Petersburg. Commissioner Justice graduated from Pinellas County public schools, and earned degrees at St. Petersburg College and the University of South Florida.



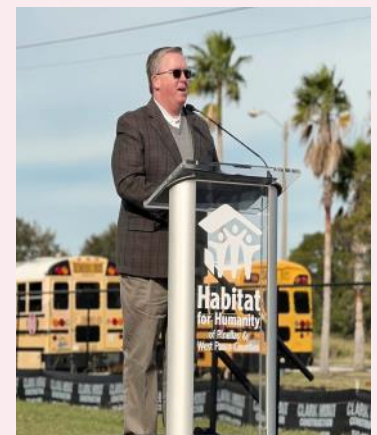
In 2000, he was elected to the Florida House of Representatives. In 2006, Commissioner Justice won a seat in the Florida Senate. Coinciding with his time as a legislator, Commissioner Justice had a career at the University of South Florida St Petersburg creating the Office of Leadership Development and Programming, where he worked connecting students to leaders and leadership opportunities in the Bay Area.

During Commissioner Justice's 10 years of legislative service, he was recognized as a Champion of Education, defender of personal privacy, advocate for seniors and military veterans, and a staunch protector of Florida's natural resources.

Commissioner Justice was elected countywide to a seat on the Pinellas County Commission in 2012, and re-elected subsequently in 2016 and 2020. During his Commission Service, he was elected by his peers to serve as Chairman in both 2016 and 2022. Commissioner Justice's service also includes time as Chair of the Tourist Development Council, Chair of the Historic Preservation Board as well as time on the Boards of the Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas, the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, the Board of Trustees of the Pinellas Law Library, as well as many others.



Commissioner Justice is married to Kathleen. They reside in west St Petersburg with their two daughters.



Child Care Licensing Program

Florida Department of Health in Pinellas, 8751 Ulmerton Road, Suite 2000, Largo, Florida 33771

727-507-4857 pclb.org

Vision

Every child has access to quality child care and education in an environment that values diversity.

Values

Commitment
Integrity
Quality

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.