



# QUARTERLY NEWS!



Child Care Licensing Program Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

WINTER  
2024  
Volume 7  
Issue 4

## FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME WINTER EDITION

This has certainly been a crazy last few months. We have all been through a lot as of late, and we have all learned things coming out the other side of these back to back hurricanes.

### JULIE'S JARGON

By Julie Oliver, Homes Supervisor



One of the biggest things that we struggled with here at Child Care licensing was knowing what was going on with you and your child care home. Yes, it is regulation that you check in with licensing after a disaster, but we also care and want to know how you are.

One thing we heard a lot post storm was that providers told us they had left a voicemail, but we did not have a message from you. As we also learned, you may not have the ability to contact licensing for a few days. All that being said, we ask that you do make every attempt to talk to someone at licensing and let them know your status. Your first step after the storm is to contact the State of Emergency Hotline at 727-369-3900. Another option is to call the after-hours emergency line at 727-262-0247. Do not call or email your specialist your status as they may not have the ability to retrieve messages.



When there is an event such as a hurricane that cause shelters to be open, the Department of Health closes down as we staff the special needs shelters in Pinellas County. Therefore we ask that you do not leave a message on the office phone line because we do not know when we will be back in the office. We do have a few members of staff who's job it is, both during and post storm, to take your call on the after-hours line (727-262-0247), retrieve messages from the State of Emergency Hotline (727-369-3900), and/or have the ability to go out post storm for inspections if needed.

Not only do we need to know your status such opened or closed, we also need to know if you sustained any damage. Depending on the amount and type of damage, you may need an inspection prior to opening your home for children again. Our priority is the safety of children. We also had some homes that sustained so much damage they had to move their child care to a different location in the house. Prior to using a different room that is not part of your child care home, licensing must inspect and measure the space to ensure it is a fit for child care.

If there is a delay in hearing back from someone at licensing, please do not hesitate to reach out to us again. We would prefer to have over communication instead of none at all.

The storms also caused DCF tests to be cancelled, and now there are a lot of providers and their substitutes trying to get rescheduled for tests. Please be patient as DCF attempts to catch up and get everyone in. You can visit the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page regarding the competency exams to help you answer any questions you may have about testing.

We hope that you and yours are well, and that things are much calmer heading into this holiday season.

*Julie*



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Adults aren't the only ones who feel stress. Children feel stress as well. With the recent hurricanes, a lot of children have had their lives upended, and they may have lost just about everything familiar to them. Having these children get back into a routine, including child care, is a great way for them begin to shed some of the stress they are holding.

In addition, doing some stress reducing activities may also help. The Mental Health Center has a great article titled ["101 Stress Relief Activities for Kids" by Michael Vallejo.](#) Most of the ideas are simple, and free. They include deep breathing exercises, exploring nature, and coloring.

If you notice a child who seems to carry a lot of stress for multiple days in a row, you should encourage the parents to ensure the child is getting enough sleep, eating healthy meals, and talking about why they feel stressed.

Sometimes changes in the child care environment may bring about stress for children. Some child care programs have had to move to alternate locations. It may take a little while for children to become comfortable in this new environment. If there is going to be a known change in regular routines for kids, in order to minimize stress, start talking about those changes prior to them occurring. Knowing what is coming will help children feel more in comfortable and they will in turn be able to better control their emotions due to stress.



Procare Solutions has an article about ["Stress Management in Child Care"](#). This article not only discusses stress in children attending child care, but also child care workers and the parents. They offer strategies such as self-care, support networks, and communication as ways to help reduce stress for all parties.



Finally, please remember to take care of yourself. You must be the best you can be to provide what the children in your care need. We have all been through a lot in the past few months, and stress levels may be higher than usual. We will preserve and get through this as a community. If child care licensing can help you or your program in any way, please reach out to your specialist.

*Faith*

**For questions and concerns, please call into the office to  
speak with the Specialist of the Day!**

**727-507-4857**



**Faith Bornooff, M.Ed.  
Executive Director**



## NEWS FROM EPIDEMIOLOGY Increase in Pertussis Cases—2024

By: Brooke Walter, MPH, CPH



PERTUSSIS

Pertussis (whooping cough) is a bacterial infection that causes spasms of severe coughing which may be followed by an inspiratory “whooping” sound, vomiting, or difficulty breathing. These coughing spasms often last one to six weeks but can continue for up to ten weeks after onset. Pertussis can cause severe infection in infants and people with weakened immune systems, including pregnant women.

Pertussis spreads in the air by respiratory droplets produced from coughing, sneezing, or talking, or through direct contact with these respiratory secretions. Pertussis is a highly contagious illness best prevented by vaccination. The DTaP (diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis) vaccine is a five-dose series administered at ages 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 15-18 months, and 4-6 years. The Tdap booster is recommended between ages 11-12 to extend protection. Adults should receive a Tdap booster every 10 years, and pregnant women should receive a booster during each pregnancy to pass along protection to their baby until they are old enough to receive their first dose<sup>1</sup>. Vaccines are available through the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County (DOH-Pinellas) on a walk-in basis.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, an average of 10,000 cases of pertussis were reported across the U.S. each year<sup>2</sup>. During the pandemic, cases of pertussis dropped below average levels, possibly due to cross-protective measures. In 2024, increases have been identified nationally<sup>3</sup>. Pinellas has reported 21 reported cases as of November 2024, compared to 1 reported case in 2023.

DOH-Pinellas advises parents to follow up with their pediatrician if their child is experiencing symptoms. Please contact DOH-Pinellas Epidemiology Program at 727-824-6932 with any questions or concerns.

### References:

<sup>1</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/vaccines/index.html>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/php/surveillance/index.html>

**PERTUSSIS**

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

**727-824-6932**



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## UPCOMING TRAININGS



### Prospective Provider Training for 2025

Child Care Licensing Program

Prior to becoming a licensed Family Child Care Home Operator, the applicant must attend the License Board's Prospective Provider Training.

(Pinellas regulation I. Personnel B. Staff Training, 19)

#### Training Dates:

Tuesday January 28<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday March 25<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday May 20<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday July 29<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday September 23<sup>rd</sup>

Tuesday November 18<sup>th</sup>



**Location of class:** Florida Department of Health  
8751 Ulmerton Road, Suite 2000  
Largo, FL 33771

**Time of Class:** 9:00am – 1:00pm

**Cost of Class:** \$25

#### **Please call 727-507-4857 to register**

*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 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.*

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### **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.*

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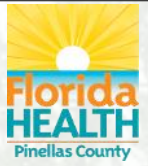
**Please call our office to register: 727-507-4857**



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**Fisher Price** recalled **all models of Snuga Swings** due to suffocation risk.

Consumer Contact:  
Website: <http://www.service.mattel.com>  
Phone: 855-853-6224



**VEVOR**  
TOUGH TOOLS. HALF PRICE.



**Vevor** recalled their **Baby Gates** due to entrapment hazard.

Consumer Information:  
E-Mail: [csr@vevor.com](mailto:csr@vevor.com)  
Phone: (888) 559-1726



**MJKSARE** recalled their **High Chairs** due to entrapment and fall hazards.

Consumer Contact:  
Email: [gztaamz@163.com](mailto:gztaamz@163.com)



**Dreamgro** recalled **Lullaby Travel Soothers** due to a choking hazard.

Consumer contact:  
website: <http://www.dreamgro.com/recall.html>  
email: [Recall@dreamgro.com](mailto:Recall@dreamgro.com)  
Phone: (888) 202-0442

## 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/>



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## A Place for Parents in Pinellas County



No-Cost early childhood programs at locations in South St Pete, Clearwater, and Tarpon Springs

After 46 years serving primarily the East side of Tampa Bay, Champions for Children is excited to bring the following no-cost programs to parents and their little ones who live “over the bridge”:

- **“Baby Café®”** is a free and comprehensive breastfeeding support clinics where mothers can meet with an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) for a one-on-one consultation to address breastfeeding challenges or simply to reassure that all is going well.
- **“What You Do Matters”** is a 6-week educational playgroup supporting caregiver- child interactions in a small group setting to foster community and learn more about developmental milestones. Session topics include fine/gross motor skills, language, social emotional learning and more!
- **ASQ Developmental Screenings** are provided at no cost to monitor your child’s growth in critical areas of development from birth to age 3. We’ll discuss the results with you to support your understanding of your child’s developmental progress, and also provide guidance if additional services are needed.

*These services are offered through the EMPOWER program, a special collaboration with the Healthy Start Coalition of Pinellas County funded by the Juvenile Welfare Board.*

### Current Services

See below to find a location near you. Please note that participants must be residents of Pinellas County.

#### Clearwater:

**Location (Mid):** Highpoint Youth Empowerment Center (5345 Laurel Place, Clearwater FL 33760)

**Baby Café:** Every Wednesday, 10:00AM-12:00PM. Walk-ins welcome, however pre-registration is encouraged. [Register Here!](#)

**Playgroups & Developmental Screenings:** Every Wednesday, 9:30AM-10:30AM and 11:00AM-12:00PM. [Register Here!](#)

#### St. Pete:

**Location (South):** James B. Sanderlin Neighborhood Family Center (2335 22nd Ave South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712)

**Baby Café:** Every Wednesday, 1:30PM-3:30PM. Walk-ins welcome, however pre-registration is encouraged. [Register here!](#)

**Playgroups & Developmental Screenings:** Every Tuesday, 9:30AM-10:30AM and 11:00AM-12:00PM. [Register Here!](#)

#### Tarpon Springs:

**Location (North):** [Citizen’s Alliance for Progress—Neighborhood Family Center](#), 401 E. Martin Luther King Jr Drive, Tarpon Springs, 34689

**Baby Café:** Every Friday, 10:00AM-12:00PM. Walk-ins welcome, however pre-registration is encouraged. [Register Here!](#)

**Playgroups:** Friday 9:30am to 10:30am and 11:00am to 12:00pm [Register Here!](#)

If you are a family with children ages prenatal to 5 years old, a service provider, or are passionate about supporting children and parents, follow them on social media, [join there email list](#) or contact [lelliott@cfctb.org](mailto:lelliott@cfctb.org).



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## Staff Spotlight Carol Ingham



We would like to welcome **Carol Ingham** to the Child Care Licensing Team. Carol started with DOH Environmental Health in June of this year and moved over to Child Care in September. She is the Homes Clerk assisting Julie Oliver.

Carol was born in Queens, New York, but grew up right here in Pinellas County. Her and her husband have three adult children, two dogs and two cats. When her children were younger, Carol was very active in their lives. She was a Girl Scout Leader for many years, and spent hundreds of hours volunteering with Pinellas County Public Schools. Now she is looking forward to being a first time grandmother next year! On her time off Carol enjoys Yoga and Zumba. She also volunteers with CASA.

Carol has enjoyed her last few months here in Child Care Licensing and looks forward to getting to know all of you.

**Welcome Carol!**

### Child Care Licensing Program

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

**727-507-4857** [pclb.org](http://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.