



QUARTERLY NEWS!



Summer 2020
Volume 3
Issue 2

Child Care Licensing Program Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County CHILDREN'S CENTERS SUMMER EDITION



Better Days and Better Ways

By Jorie Massarsky, Supervisor, Centers

You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, 'I have lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.' You must do the thing you think you cannot do."
- Eleanor Roosevelt

This quote by a former first lady of the United States of America, while written more than 50 years ago, certainly speaks to the situation that we all find ourselves living in. We have all had to face a "faceless enemy," change our lives dramatically and witness unimaginable suffering. We have changed the way we do business, but have not lost our humanity, compassion and desire to help each other. If there is one good thing that will come from this pandemic, it is that ordinary people have been doing extraordinary things. Many of you have had to close your Children's Centers for the safety of staff and families. Many have continued contact through distance learning. Some have chosen to remain open, and while following the Safer at Home rules, provide care for the children of essential workers. Some have had to furlough staff and have done the best that they could to support them. You have helped your own family, neighbors and friends. As many Children's Centers re-open and we begin to find our "new normal," there are several things that I would like you to be aware of.

First, if you were closed and furloughed your staff, they are still employed and do not need to be re-screened, even if not with children for more than 90 days.

If you were unable to obtain a current fire inspection because yours expired on March 1st, 2020, or after, you will not be cited for a violation. However, you must obtain one as soon as the fire inspectors in your municipality are doing inspections again. Some have continued to do them, some have not. Please call your fire department to find out the status of their department.

If your First Aid and CPR expired since March 1, 2020, you will not be cited. However, there are several instructors who are doing virtual assessments, and someone at your Children's Center must have current First Aid/CPR at all times.

If driver's physicals or vehicle inspections have expired and you were unable to obtain them, there will be not a violation given. Again, as soon as you can, please obtain these. In the meantime, there is no transportation being allowed, so that should not be an issue at this time.

If children's physicals and immunizations have expired since March 1st, 2020, you will not be cited. However, parents should be asked to obtain these as soon as possible.

If you were closed, it is important to document those dates so that we are aware when looking at fire drill logs, daily play-ground inspection logs, and closing logs that there is a reason for blanks. If you were not open in April 2020, you do not need to give

out the Distracted Driver flyer until September 2020. Many Children's Centers that were closed were unable to receive their renewal inspection.

We have issued Provisional Licenses in lieu of the regular license. These licenses are not punitive and as soon as you re-open, please notify your Licensing Specialist so that she can come out and do a re-inspection to get your regular license for the remainder of your license year.

We are so appreciative of the providers, who although closed, met their Licensing Specialist at the Children's Center so that they could get as much of their inspection done as possible. We are so appreciative of the support that you have given to your staff and the families you serve. We are so appreciative of our Licensing staff who have answered your questions and worked with you to help you to understand the rules, whether Emergency Regulations or the Governor's Executive Order, under which Children's Centers were required to operate.

We are here to support you as we move forward and while we may never go back to exactly the way things were, I look ahead to better days and better ways.

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With Faith Bornooff, M.Ed.
Executive Director



We're All In This Together!

You have been hearing from me a lot more lately, but I do hope future communications are for happier reasons. I know that this has been a difficult and trying ride, but I want you to know we are here, we are here to support you, and most of all we are in this together!

With the current COVID-19 situation and the upcoming hurricane season, it is very important that you take a minute to ensure we have the best contact information for your Center in the event of an emergency. If your Center is ever closed for any reason, we will need a cell phone number and email that we can use to stay in contact with you. The staff at PCLB are responsible for reporting the status of all Children's Centers daily to DCF and OEL during a state of emergency. Please remember that it is a Licensing Regulation that you notify PCLB within 24 hours any time your program must close due to an emergency, (such as COVID-19 or a hurricane) or your building sustains any structural damage due to a natural disaster or fire.

To report closures, you can call our office directly. If our office has an emergency closure, you will receive an email from our staff. At that point, you would use the State of Emergency Number at 727-369-3900. You will be asked some questions that will help us better understand your status. When possible, you will receive a call back from a member of our staff.

Again, we are all in this together. PCLB is here to offer support, even during the most challenging times. I want to personally thank you for everything you do for the children of Pinellas County, even when it is not easy.



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May 2020

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) vs. COVID-19

Influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI) and Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) are both respiratory diseases that share many similarities. As we learn more about COVID-19, it's important to understand the way that these infections are similar and how they're different in order to keep yourself and your community healthy.

Symptoms

Influenza and COVID-19 can both cause cough, fever, muscle aches, fatigue and sometimes nausea/vomiting and diarrhea.

Both can be mild, severe, or sometimes cause death.

Symptoms should be discussed with your healthcare provider to determine the appropriate course of action.

Transmission

Both spread between people through droplets of an infected person's sneeze or cough.

Both viruses can live on surfaces and spread when touching surface then face.

Treatment

Neither can be treated with antibiotics, which only work for bacterial infections.

Difference

Influenza	COVID-19
Antivirals can relieve symptoms and decrease illness duration.	Antivirals and other treatments are being tested currently.

Prevention

Both can be prevented by frequently, thoroughly washing hands and using hand sanitizer, covering coughs and sneezes with your elbow, and staying home when ill

Difference

Influenza	COVID-19
Vaccines are available and updated annually to prevent infection or reduce flu severity. If you have not received your flu shot this year, it is not too late!	Vaccine development is in progress, but no vaccine is currently available for use.

Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provide guidance on [daily life and coping](#) during the COVID-19 outbreak, specifically:

[Stress and coping](#): common experiences of stress and resources for taking care of yourself and coping

[Talking to children](#): tips for navigating difficult conversations about COVID-19 with children to provide simple and honest information while minimizing fear.

For more information on Florida and county COVID-19 trends please visit the Florida Department of Health [COVID-19 webpage](#).

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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.



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

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

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: 8:30 AM. – 1:00 PM

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

This class is subject to cancellation based on restrictions and requirements in the state at that time.



Telephone registration will not be accepted.

To reserve your space in the desired training, submit the registration form with check or money order made payable to Pinellas County Health Department. If the training is full when your registration is received, you will be contacted.
Seating is limited and child care is not available.

Return the completed form and fee to: Child Care Licensing Program, 8751 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33771

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

☐ Record Keeping for Children's Centers \$40.00

☐ Director's Orientation for Infant Care \$25.00

Name (Please Print): _____ Telephone: _____

Center Name: _____

Street, City, & Zip Code: _____

Date of Training: _____ Fee Enclosed: _____

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Just Blanks Children's Nightgowns Recalled by Ishtex Textile Products Due to Violation of Federal Flammability Standard Burn Hazard



Ishtex Textile Products at 800-935-0914 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, email at salesishtex@gmail.com with "Product Recall" as the email subject or online at www.ishtex.com and click on the Product Recall Notice link at the bottom of the page for more information.



Children's Tool Kits Recalled by Grizzly Industrial Due to Violation of Federal Lead Content Ban and Toy Safety Requirements



Grizzly Industrial toll-free at 888-615-7944 anytime or email at recalls@grizzly.com or online at www.grizzly.com and click on recalls for more information.

IKEA Recalls KULLEN 3-Drawer Chests Due to Tip-Over and Entrapment Hazards; Consumers Urged to Anchor Chests or Return for Refund

Consumer Contact: Call IKEA's toll-free recall hotline at 888-966-4532 from 10:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. ET or go online to www.IKEA-USA.com/secureit for more information on how to receive a refund or a free wall-anchoring repair kit.



Step2 Recalls Children's Grocery Shopping Carts Due to Laceration Hazard

Step2 at 800-347-8372 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or online at www.step2.com and click on Services & Recall and then on Product Recalls at the top of the page for more information.



Thule Recalls Thule Sleek Car Seat Adapters Due to Fall Hazard

Thule Group toll-free at 855-652-2688 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, email at carseatadapter@thule.com, or online at www.thule.com/carseatadapter or www.thule.com and click on Support/Safety Notice for more information.



Wyndmere Naturals Recalls Birch Sweet Essential Oil and Aches & Pains Synergistic Essential Oil Blend Due to Failure to Meet Child Resistant Packaging Requirement; Risk of Poisoning

Consumer Contact: Wyndmere Naturals at 800-207-8538 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, email at support@wyndmerenaturals.com and in the body of the email provide your name, address, product name and the date you purchased the product or online at www.wyndmerenaturals.com and click on "Recall – Important Safety Information" for more information.



Modular Robotics Recalls Rechargeable Battery Packs Due to Burn Hazard

Consumer Contact: Modular Robotics toll-free 24 hour hotline at 877-233-6859, or visit the firm's website at www.dexterindustries.com 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

PAPER PLATE FISH AQUARIUM

1. Glue beans at the bottom of the plate to represent the aquarium or ocean floor.
2. Cut Pipe Cleaners into small pieces and glue above the beans. You could use any color, and call it seaweed, coral or an anemone!
3. Use Glue Stick to attach fish to the plate, then glue eyes on top.



SUPPLIES

- Blue paper plates
- White beans
- Googly eyes
- Paper fish (draw your own, use stickers or an online template)
- Green pipe cleaners
- Glue (for beans, pipe cleaners, eyes)
- Glue stick (for fish)

That's it! A really simple, inexpensive way to add something to a preschool ocean unit or to just make on a rainy day.

From DirectorJewels.com

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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

DEBBIE HUNT



Licensing Specialist

I am originally from New York City and in 1970, my family moved to Florida. I attended High School here and then college at St. Petersburg College and the University of South Florida.

When I started my family, I opened a Family Child Care Home. Later, I went on to work as a teacher in several Child Care Centers in Pinellas County.

I have two children and two grandchildren, who I love spending time with.

I have worked at Child Care Licensing for 25 years, starting at JWB and then moving on to the Health Department.

I enjoy being a Licensing Specialist and visiting home providers and centers. I especially like seeing the dedication of child care professionals and how they nurture the children they teach.

I am responsible for protecting the health and safety of children and I work with a great team of women!

Debbie

