



QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

CHILDREN'S CENTERS WINTER EDITION



Winter 2021
Volume 4
Issue 4

My Parting Words

By Jorie Massarsky, Centers Supervisor

As I inch closer to retirement, I want to leave you with some thoughts and insights that have been my guiding lights.

You all have chosen to work in childcare because deep within, a passion burns for ensuring quality care is provided for children. Be proud of this passion and continue to feed it. Attend trainings, further your education in early childhood, conduct trainings at conferences that lead you to gained knowledge in a specific subject area.

Remember that you and your staff may be the best part of a child's day – this is a serious responsibility. We cannot control where children come from, or what they go home to, but we can control their experience when they are with us. Staff need to be committed to nurturing and fostering growth and meeting each child's individual needs.

Learn the regulations and make sure that your staff is trained in them as well. You cannot succeed on a licensing inspection if you don't know what is expected and what you should be doing to meet that expectation. Reward the positive – just like we encourage positive behavioral supports for children, they are valued in adults as well. Let staff know that the children's center's success is their success. Conversely, if things don't go well, the inability to meet compliance is their responsibility as well.

Teamwork is essential in any group. You should all be working toward the same goal and everyone should understand and buy into that goal. Hopefully, it is to provide a quality childcare environment, where children can grow cognitively, socially, emotionally and physically. Identify and rely on each team member's strength – some may be very detail oriented and great at maintaining children's records, some may be big picture people and are great at classroom set-up and management. Some are veterans and can mentor newer staff. You should also identify areas where each team member can grow and assist them in doing so.



Happy Hanukkah!

Understand that everyone has stress in their life; and everyone deals with it differently.

Families, children and staff all deserve support when needed to learn to deal with stress. We need to show kindness and compassion to everyone and utilize available resources.

If we want to elevate the way we are thought of in the childcare profession, we need to do what we can to change perceptions. We need to dress professionally, conduct ourselves professionally, and display knowledge that one would expect from a professional. We will never have the respect that we deserve if we don't demand it for ourselves and show it to each other. One of the greatest joys of my life has been working with the dedicated team of licensing specialists, administrative staff and supervisory staff at the Child Care Licensing Program. They truly want you to succeed, and spend endless hours giving trainings, technical assistance and answering phone calls and emails to provide guidance.

It has also been a sincere joy working with providers, both as a licensing specialist and as a supervisor. I have met so many wonderful people over the years and have appreciated that suggestions for improvements have been taken to heart and implemented. I have always felt that if you succeeded, then I have succeeded. I hope that the childcare community of Pinellas County continues to grow and thrive and am glad that I have been able to be a part of such a magnificent group of people.

With much respect and wishing you and yours happy holidays,

Jorie Massarsky

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Layout & Design by



Lisa Zacharia

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Faith Bornoff, M.Ed.
Executive Director



We Are Here for You!

Recently, someone asked why our office hours are from 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. when child care is not limited to these hours. Well, it is true in that our actual office is open during these hours, but these are not the only hours we are conducting inspections, taking phone calls and regulating the health and safety of the children of Pinellas County. Our inspectors do conduct early morning, evening and sometimes weekend inspections when appropriate. Anytime your program is open, you are also open for inspection.

In the event you would like to schedule a future date and time for someone to call you after hours, please call our office and we will set an appointment for a call time that is convenient for you.

If you find yourself needing to reach us after our business hours, please call our office at 727-507-4807 and leave a message for a return call the following business day. If your call cannot wait until the next business day, please call 727-262-0247 to leave a message for someone to return your call and you will be called back immediately upon receipt of the message.

If you need to call PCLB to self-report an incident, please do not leave a message in your Licensing Specialist's voicemail since they may not receive the message right away. Please call our office directly at 727-507-4857 and speak to someone on staff.



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Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County NEWS FROM EPIDEMIOLOGY

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease

by Becky Bohinc, MPH, CPH

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD) is a mild, very contagious, viral illness often seen among children under five years of age. People can be exposed to the viruses that cause HFMD through multiple routes, which allows the illness to spread quickly in childcare facilities. Learning about the disease and how to stop it from spreading are key to protecting others.

• Signs and Symptoms:

Symptoms generally appear 3 to 6 days after a person is exposed. Symptoms begin with a fever, sore throat, malaise, and/or poor appetite. After 1 to 2 days, red sores or blisters can appear on the mouth, hands, soles of the feet, knees, elbows, buttocks, or genital area. Although more common in children, adults can become infected as well and should monitor themselves for symptoms.



• How is it spread?

HFMD is caused by viruses that belong to the Enterovirus family and Coxsackievirus A16 is the most common cause in the United States. When someone is infected, these viruses can be found in nose and throat secretions, such as drool and nasal mucus, blister fluid or stool. The virus can be spread through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Exposures may occur through close contact such as kissing, hugging, or sharing eating utensils or cups of an infected person. The virus can also be transferred on surfaces, including doorknobs and toys.

• What to do if you if you are sick?

Those infected with HFMD are most contagious during the first week of illness. It is important to stay home and not attend school, work, or other group activities. Follow up with a healthcare provider as needed. Providers can often diagnosis the illness by considering the age, symptoms, and appearance of the rash. Most individuals recover within 7 to 10 days.



Report to the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County (DOH-Pinellas):

Contact the Epidemiology Program at **727-824-6932** to report outbreaks of HFMD in a group setting.

Additional Resources:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hand-foot-mouth/index.html>

It only takes a few steps to help stop the illness from spreading to others:

• Wash your hands:

Adults and children should wash their hands thoroughly throughout the day. Wash hands after using the bathroom, after changing diapers, after blowing your nose, or coughing or sneezing, and before and after caring for someone who is sick. Try to avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Avoid touching the blisters or scabs and keep those areas covered.

• Clean and disinfect:

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as toys, doorknobs, tables, and eating utensils.

• Notify and monitor:

Notify individuals who were exposed to an infected person.



Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

205 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N.

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

(727) 824-6932

PinellasHealth.com

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Children's Center 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.

**Dec 7
2021 &
March 8
2022**

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

**Feb 8
2022**

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. – 12:00 Noon

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

**Jan 11
2022**

PINELLAS DIRECTOR 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 Room

You may reserve your space in the desired training by calling in your payment to our office at **727-507-4857** or by submitting the registration form by mail with a check or money order made payable to Pinellas County Health Department. Return the completed form and fee to: Child Care Licensing Program, 8751 Ulmerton Road, Suite 2000 Largo, FL 33771.

If the training is full when your registration is received, you will be contacted. Seating is limited and child care is not available.

Please call our 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)

☐ \$40.00 Record Keeping for Children's Centers ☐ \$25.00 Director's Orientation for Infant Care ☐ \$25.00 Pinellas Director Basics

Name (Please Print): _____ Telephone: _____

Center Name: _____

Street, City, & Zip Code: _____

Date of Training: _____ Fee Enclosed: _____

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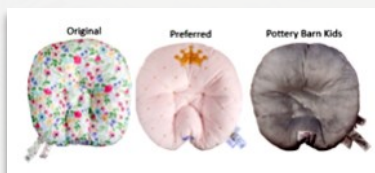
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The Boppy Company Recalls Over 3 Million Original Newborn Loungers, Boppy Preferred Newborn Loungers and Pottery Barn Kids Boppy Newborn Loungers After 8 Infant Deaths; Suffocation Risk



The Boppy Company toll-free at 800-416-1355 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or online at www.boppy.com and click "Recall & Safety Alert" for more information.



PRODUCT RECALL

ABUS Recalls Youth Helmets Due to Risk of Head Injury



Sedgwick toll-free at 877-643-8415 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, or email at abus8077@sedgwick.com or online at <https://mobil.abus.com/usa> scroll down and click "Read More" on the main page or at: <https://mobil.abus.com/usa/on-road/Bike-helmets/>

Hanna Andersson Recalls Baby Ruf-

Hanna Andersson Customer Care Center at 800-222-0544 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. PT, daily email at help@hannaandersson.com or online at www.hannaandersson.com and click "Product Recall" at the bottom of the



Hanna Andersson Recalls Baby Long Sleeve Wiggle Sets Due to Choking Hazard



Hanna Andersson Customer Care Center at 800-222-0544 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. PT, daily email at help@hannaandersson.com or online at www.hannaandersson.com and click "Product Recall" at the bottom of the page or at: www.hannaandersson.com/

Backyard Play Systems Recalls Playsets with Wooden Roof Due to Entrapment Hazard



Backyard Play Systems toll-free at 866-890-2211 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, email at customerservice@backyard-play.com, online at www.backyardproducts.com and click on Safety for more information, or www.backyardproducts.com/safety.



Magnussen Home Recalls Nova Series 5-Drawer Chests Due to Tip-Over and Entrapment Hazards

Magnussen Home toll-free at 1-833-748-0210 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, email at recall@magnussen.com, or online at <https://www.magnussen.com/Recall> or www.magnussen.com and click on "Safety Recall" at the top of the page for more information.

Joovy Recalls Zoom 360 Ultralight Jogging Strollers Due to Fall Hazard

Joovy at 800-495-8718 from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, email at zoom360@joovy.com online at www.joovy.com and click on "Voluntary Recall of Zoom 360 Ultralight 806X Front Fork Bearing mfg. between March 2020-October 2020" for more information.



Step2® Recalls StepUp Sidekick Learning Towers™ Due to Fall Hazard

Step 2 at 800-347-8372 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or online at www.step2.com and click on Product Recalls at the bottom of the page for more information. Step2 is notifying all known customers directly.



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.

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Creative Corner

Fun, educational activities kids LOVE

“ I think wintertime inspires the best crafts! There are so many holidays to choose from and the weather helps to create endless opportunities to make wonderful memories with our younger children.”

Lynn Gibson, Large Family Child Care Home Provider

Parents love keepsakes, so during the gift-giving times, it's easy to get lost in places like Pinterest that offer so many different ideas.

Infant feet make "Mistle Toes"



CHRISTMAS TREES ARE FUN TO MAKE.



SANTA Sticky Wall

Sticky Walls (contact paper) activities of holiday trees and Santa are fun to do too.



One of my favorite books for winter is "The Mitten." There are lots of crafts made for this story and it teaches the children how to retell the silly story of how many animals can fit in a mitten.



**...So, turn on the holiday tunes and start getting creative this season.
You can make your child care business a Winter Wonderland!**

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Some Reminders and Clarifications

- The Influenza Brochure may only and must be give out to the families of all children enrolled in your program by September 30th annually. If they enroll on October 3rd, they don't need it until next year, if they are still in your program in August or September. You should not put it in enrollment packets that are signed and returned prior to August 1st.
- The Distracted Driver flyer must be given out to the families of all children enrolled in your program twice a year; once in September and once in April. We are finding a number of programs who did not distribute in September. **WE RECOMMEND GIVING OUT THE INFLUENZA and DISTRACTED DRIVER FLYERS together in SEPTEMBER.** That way while parents are signing for receipt of two documents, they are doing it at one time.
- **FOR SCHOOL AGE PROGRAM ONLY:** There must be someone with current first aid and CPR certification who is in charge of supervision of each group of children. If there are two staff with a group because there are more than 25 school agers, only one of them needs first aid/CPR. If there is more than one group of children in the outdoor play space, each person in charge of one of those groups must have current first aid/CPR certification. Best practice would be for as many Youth Specialists or Group Leaders to have current first aid and CPR certification as possible as with staff shortages, staff are often moved from site to site.
- **FOR DAY NURSERY PROGRAMS ONLY:** The requirements for first aid/CPR certification go into effect on December 31, 2021. It is based on the total number of staff that are in direct supervision of children (does not include office staff, maintenance staff, cooks). There is a chart on page 68 of our current regulations that shows that if you have between 0 and 25 staff who directly supervise children, (this would be the lion share of the programs in this county) then you need 3 staff with first aid and 3 staff with CPR when children are present. DCF has come back and said that at the beginning and end of the day, when there are very few children present, you can reduce that number to 1 staff with first aid and CPR certification. It can be one staff member with both or two different staff members. They have also said that the director can be one of the people with first aid and CPR, even though they may not directly supervise children. We will begin to monitor for this regulation on January 2, 2022.

If you have specific questions regarding these areas, please contact your Licensing Specialist.

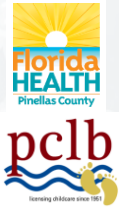


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Child Care Licensing Program

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



The best thing about working at Child Care Licensing is the fact that it's never ever boring and I may very well have the most varied job on the planet. My coworkers are very helpful and really support each other, so I am grateful to have worked with them for almost five years now.

I worked for state government in Tallahassee for many years as an Administrative Assistant and later, a Graphic Designer. Graphic design is what I did for the majority of my career and is my true love.

I was born in Brooklyn, New York. When I was only 7, we moved to Puerto Rico. Eight years later, we moved to Mexico City. My final move was to Florida as an adult, where I have lived ever since. Having lived in Latin America, I am fluent in Spanish which is really handy at the office.

Yo hablo español.

I have two adult children, David and Carly, and two grandchildren, Dom and Gigi, who are 11 and 8. David has worked in radio most of his career and Carly works for an engineering company. I am convinced my grandson Dom will be a game show host when he grows up. He is the truly most social

Lisa Zacharia Administrative Secretary

child I've ever known. Gigi has lots of interests, loves hats and is a good reader.

I come from a family of redheads. Both parents were redheads and all four sisters are redheads. My significant other is a guy named Gary, who I've been with for ten years. He is really funny and likes to have a good time. We both love the blues and go listen to live music pretty often.

For fun I really enjoy taking care of my plants and cooking. Growing herbs is really fulfilling because I can go outside and snip some Thai basil or Cuban oregano to add to the night's dinner.

I see my family just about every weekend and there is sure to be a good meal made by one of us. We are a lively bunch that love to eat, laugh and listen to Latin music.

Honeymoon Island is really close to home and I do love to watch the sunset because they are so beautiful in this part of Florida.

