



QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES SUMMER EDITION

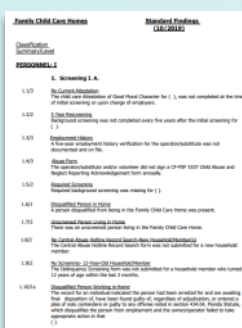


Summer 2021
Volume 4
Issue 2

A Breath of Fresh Air By Julie Oliver, Homes Supervisor

As summer approaches and warmer weather descends upon us, adults and teenagers are getting their COVID vaccinations. Soon we will all be able to take a deep breath and begin to resume some activities that we have had to do without for more than a year.

Our Licensing Specialists continue to do an incredible job of visiting children's centers and homes while employing safety precautions to keep you, your family child care home and themselves safe. They now have the new Standard Classifications that address all the new Regulations that went into effect in April 2020, in their tablets and laptops. These Standards were emailed to you and are available on our website, www.pclb.org. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with them – they are a list of everything that you can be cited for as a violation. If you are unfamiliar with what a requirement in a certain area is, I urge you to make sure that you are familiar with our Licensing Regulations Governing Pinellas County Family Child Care Homes and Large Family Child Care Homes. I advise reading one section at a time and tabbing areas that you may need to refer to often. You can also reach out to your Licensing Specialist for clarification.



One big change for Large Family Child Care Homes is that by 6/12/21 the employee must have current First Aid and CPR (pediatric). First Aid and CPR may be taken online, but CPR must have an "in person" assessment/skills test. This can be found on page 19 in the regulations.

As progress is made, the CDC is modifying their guidelines often and State of Florida and Pinellas County officials have been re-examining emergency orders and mandates. We emailed you on May 5, 2021, to let you know that the Pinellas County mask mandate and state of emergency had ended. As a business entity, you may still require face coverings of staff or visitors. However, State of Emergency Licensing Regulations have ended and you must follow Pinellas County Licensing requirements in all areas.



We have weathered a storm that thankfully does not seem to come but once in a century. While many of us have suffered personal loss, been ill ourselves or been isolated from friends and family, it is my hope that we can begin to move forward. We need to understand that adults and children alike have had a life-altering year, and many have experienced a level of stress that they

have never had before. Now more than ever, it is essential that we support one another, spread hope and positivity and continue the strong commitment to quality child care that has been evident in our child care community. We thank you for all that you do every single day, and encourage you to take a breath of fresh air and recharge.

Julie

Layout & Design by



Lisa Zacharia

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Faith Bornoff, M.Ed.
Executive Director



So the state of emergency is over, the mask ordinance is rescinded, and now what? Everything just goes back to "normal" overnight, right? Well, we all know it's never that easy!

It seems there is always a shortage of something these days, and most recently that shortage in the Family Child Care Home industry has been children needing care. Some of this may be due to family responsibilities such as an older sibling who is virtual learning at home or a parent who is caring for a vulnerable loved one and cannot not yet return to the work force. It is hard to say when the Family Home Child Care industry will see an uptick in enrollment but until then, don't forget about the families you have right now! Let's take every opportunity to thank them for their perseverance, hard work and dedication to their children during this unexpected pandemic experience.

Here are three low-cost ideas to show families what they mean to you:

- Leave notes or cards in their child's diaper bag they can discover later telling them how terrific they are.
- Prepare a bulletin board in your home and post positive experiences and interactions between you and them praising parents and letting them know what a wonderful job they are doing.
- Email pictures of the children to the parents. They say, "It takes a Village!" Remind the parents of the children how essential they are to you, their children and to their family. *Tell them they are doing a good job!*

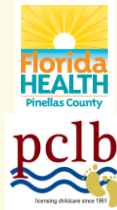


On that note, it is my turn to tell you how amazing you are! Without you, the families in our community could not return to work and know that their child is well taken care of. Your hard work allows the community return to "normal." Thank you for all that you do and have continued to do throughout the past year. We are on the upswing and look forward to returning to the pre-pandemic lifestyle we have all missed.

Faith

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Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County



Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County NEWS FROM EPIDEMIOLOGY

Herd Immunity: How Vaccinating Children Can End the Pandemic ^{1,2,3,4}

Austin Morley-Sloan, MSMS, BSPH

Over the last year, rising case counts, hospitalizations, deaths, and socioeconomic upheaval shifted our hopes towards a vaccine being our way out of the pandemic. As vaccines rolled-out to our highest risk individuals, we began to look forward to returning to normal life. Currently, the available vaccines are authorized for use in those 12 and older for the Pfizer vaccine. Johnson & Johnson and Moderna still do not have approval for anyone under the age of 18. Since nearly a quarter of the United States population is under 18 years old, these vaccine manufacturers have sought to provide rigorously tested, safe, and efficacious vaccines for children. The benefits of vaccinating children benefits are both direct, protection against severe disease and complications, and indirect, protecting others by reducing spread. These indirect benefits can also decrease stress put on families by the pandemic and encourage children to return to daily activities, such as school and sports, that allow them to socialize with people outside their homes.

Not only do parents and caregivers require robust safety data, including pediatric-focused studies and post licensure monitoring for potential rare outcomes, they need societal decision making that prioritizes their children's safety. In the context of COVID-19, current data suggests that SARS-CoV-2 infections occur in children at a lower rate and typically without severe outcomes. Children, particularly younger kids, aren't necessarily super-spreaders of SARS-CoV-2, like they are for Influenza, but the emergence of faster-spreading variants, along with rising adult vaccination rates, means that children and adolescents might soon be contributing more to spread. This virus will find ways to survive and spread unless we can close off transmission pathways. Evidence is building that our current vaccines might block transmission of SARS-CoV-2, therefore vaccinating children could help us achieve herd immunity across all age groups.

To address this issue – Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson have all began implementing COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials specifically to demonstrate proper dosing, safety, and efficacy in these pediatric populations. In these trials, it will be critical for these manufacturers to maintain transparency and a thorough scientific vetting process. How will these trials work? In some ways, these trials will mimic the early trials we did in adults, where participants received a range of doses to find one that triggers a strong immune response without very many side effects. Once we figure out a "sweet spot" for a dose, then we will enroll more children to either receive the full dose regimen or a placebo, a harmless injection that we use as a control to compare its effects against the testing group. Researchers will follow this group for months or even years to study the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines. It's important to mention that the legal guardians of

This virus will find ways to survive and spread unless we can close off transmission pathways. Evidence is building that our current vaccines might block transmission of SARS-CoV-2, therefore vaccinating children could help us achieve herd immunity across all age groups.

these children participating in the trials were given detailed information about the risks and benefits of these trials prior to giving their consent for their child to participate.

Pfizer recently released preliminary data from their Phase 3 clinical trial of 2,260 participants aged 12-15 years old. This data suggests 100% efficacy in a small sample size with a strong immune system response and tolerable safety profile compared to previous trial data in those 16-25 years of age. Pfizer is also enrolling for a Phase 1/2/3 trial in children 6-months to 11 years old. Following suit, Moderna has announced the beginning of their Phase 2/3 trial of 6,750 pediatric participants aged 6-months to 12 years to assess the dosing, safety, and efficacy of their vaccine in children. An important difference between the clinical trials in adults versus children will be the number of participants available to calculate the effectiveness. Since infections and severe outcomes are rare in children, these studies will have only a few thousand participants when compared to the adult trials with tens of thousands. Given that the study size will be too small to outright calculate efficacy, researchers will be comparing immune system markers and antibody titers from blood samples to those from the adult trials to judge efficacy. This difference means that scientists will be primarily focusing on the safety of these vaccines in children. They want to ensure that these vaccines do not cause any significant adverse events or "enhanced disease" if they later became infected. The adult trials found no evidence for this, but researchers are looking closely at immune system markers to make sure these events do not occur. As data is released in the coming months, the scientific community has a duty to parents, families, and communities to demonstrate reputable scientific practice that holds safety and efficacy of these vaccines in children to the highest standards.

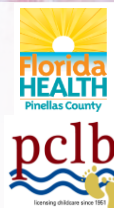
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<https://investors.modernatx.com/news-releases/news-release-details/moderna-announces-first-participants-dosed-phase-23-study-0>
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01061-4>

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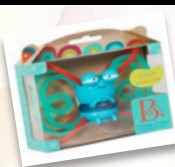
Child Care Licensing Program
Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

Homes Summer



Urgent Warning Comes After Agency Finds One Death and Dozens of Incidents of Children Being Sucked Beneath the Tread+ (Formerly Known as the Tread)

What should consumers do now? Stop using the Peloton Tread if there are small children or pets at home. Incidents suggest that children may be seriously injured while the Tread+ is being used by an adult, not just when a child has unsupervised access to the machine. If consumers must continue to use the product, CPSC urges consumers to use the product only in a locked room, to prevent access to children and pets while the treadmill is in use. Keep all objects, including exercise balls and other equipment, away from the treadmill. When not in use, unplug the Tread+ and store the safety key away from the device and out of reach of children. Report any Peloton Tread+ incidents to CPSC at www.SaferProducts.gov or to CPSC's Hotline at 800-638-2772.



Battat Recalls Infant Teethers Due to Choking Hazard; Sold Exclusively at Target

Consumer Contact: Battat toll-free at 844-963-2479 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, email at recalls@battatco.com or online at www.battatco.com and click on "Recalls" located at the bottom of the page for more information.

Target Recalls Cat & Jack Baby Rompers Due to Choking Hazard

Consumer Contact: Target at 800-440-0680 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. CT, daily or online at www.target.com and click on "Recalls" at the bottom of the page, then on "Clothing" for more information. Consumers can also click the "Product Recalls" tab on Target's Facebook page for more information.



Infant Bath Seats Recalled Due to Drowning Hazard; Imported by BATTOP; Sold Exclusively on Amazon.com



Recall Alert

BATTOP by e-mail at service@battop.net for more information.

RH Recalls Children's Bath Wraps Due to Violation of Federal Flammability Standard

Consumer Contact:

RH toll-free at 833-917-3405 from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. PT Monday through Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT Saturday and Sunday, email at recall@rh.com or online at www.rh.com and click on "Safety Recalls" at the bottom of the page for more information.



Kidde Recalls TruSense Smoke and Combination Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Alarms Due to Risk of Failure to Alert Consumers to a Fire

Kidde toll-free at 844-796-9972 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET on Saturday or online at www.kiddetsalarmrecall.rsvpcomm.com or www.kidde.com and click on "Support" and then "Product Alerts" 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/>

QUARTERLY NEWS!

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Homes Summer



Creative Corner

Submitted by



Fun, educational activities kids LOVE

Leadership begins at an early age! The students at Imagination Station work alongside their teachers to host student-led conferences. This allows the child to be involved in their learning while showing off all of their hard work! The COVID pandemic did not stop these eager learners from hosting their conferences. Virtual conferences were practiced to allow for the appropriate safety precautions.

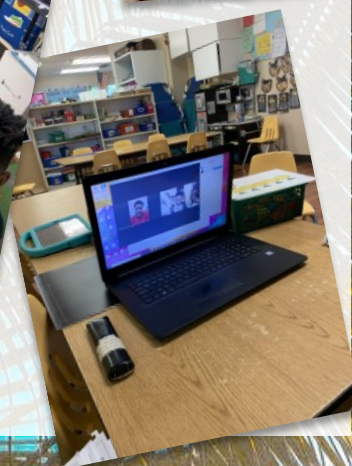
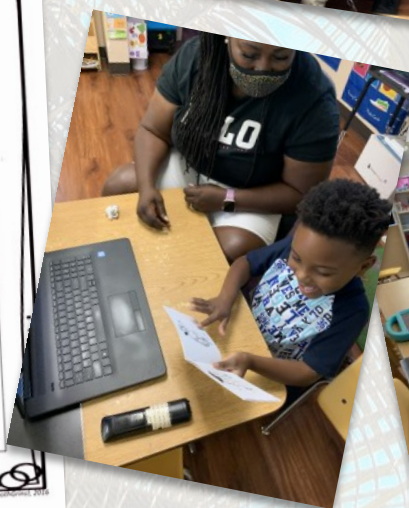
VPK Sample

START here	WELCOME Say "Hello" to your guest and show them around your room.	Show Your Guest Your Work (student) *Share your work samples *Show your art activities/ projects *How are you feeling about school right now? What do you like about it?
THANK YOU FOR COMING (Teacher/student) *Thank your parent for attending *Looking forward to a school/home partnership	WELCOME to student led conferences Florida Standards/Future Goals	Show Your Guest Your Favorite Activity (student) *Ex. blocks, computers, writing center etc. *Who are your friends in class? Where do you sit in class?
Parental Feedback *Ask for feedback *Share how they can help from home *Ask are there any resources within our community or extra practice activities to assist at home?	Celebrate Accomplishments! *Share specific accomplishment	



2's and 3's sample

START here	WELCOME Say "Hello" to your guest and show them around your room	Show Your Guest Your Favorite activity (student) *Who are your friends in class? Where do you like to play?
THANK YOU FOR COMING (Teacher/student) *Thank your parent for attending *Looking forward to a school/home partnership	WELCOME to student led conferences CELEBRATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS! *Share specific accomplishment Future Goals (Teacher):	Show Your Guest Your Work (student) *What are your favorite art/craft/project you made so far?
Parental Feedback *Ask for feedback *Share how they can help from home *Ask are there any resources within our community or extra practice activities to assist at home?	Florida Standards/ Ages & Stages	



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Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

Homes
Summer



Child Care Licensing Program

Florida Department of Health in Pinellas

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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 Fundamental Five of Safe Food Service

These are the five fundamentals for safe, sanitary food service. Although good sanitation includes other details, if any one of these basic five points is missing, the prevention of food contamination is significantly jeopardized.

- 1. Clean hands** Dirty hands spread germs. Hands and fingernails should be washed thoroughly with soap and water before work, after using toilet and every time they are soiled or become contaminated.
- 2. Clean service** Handling utensils the wrong way may spread disease. Single service items should be handled carefully to keep them sanitary. Other utensils should be washed clean, sanitized as recommended by the health authority, then carefully stored and handled.
- 3. Clean food** Food may be infected by coughs, sneezes, handling, dirty equipment, vermin, animals, and wastes. It should be protected during storage, preparation, and service.
- 4. Right temperature** Cold temperatures slow or stop the growth of germs; heat kills them. Cold foods should be kept cold; hot foods should be kept hot. Prepared food should never be left standing at room temperature except during necessary periods of preparation and service.
- 5. Healthy personnel** Food service personnel must be healthy to prevent colds and other diseases from being passed to others. Germs from infected cuts, pimples, or boils can contaminate food.

Cindy Blakley Environmental Specialist



- Keep your building and appliances clean and in good repair.
- Follow label directions on cleaning and sanitizing products for safety and for efficacy.
- Ensure that basic food safety refresher training is done at least annually. Remember that the "Big Six" food-borne pathogens, including *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, Norovirus, and the Hepatitis A virus are always a concern because they are highly infectious and may cause severe illness. Thankfully, proper handwashing along with exclusion and/or restriction of ill workers will reduce the risk of spreading these germs.
- The following link has training guidance and information: <http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/environmental-health/facility-programs/food-hygiene/food-code-resources.html>.



If you have food hygiene questions, please feel free to call (727) 275-6491 or email cynthia.blakley@flhealth.gov.