



# QUARTERLY NEWS!

Child Care Licensing Program Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County

## FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES WINTER EDITION



Winter  
2020  
Volume 3

### 'Tis The Season

By Jorie Massarsky, Centers Supervisor

As we come to the end of 2020, (and many would say "not a moment too soon") COVID-19 has taught us many things. It has changed our way of working and made us truly appreciate the things in life that we had taken for granted in the past.

First, we learned how important following scientific guidance can be in mitigating the spread of the disease. Family Child Care Homes that have followed CDC guidelines closely, have for the most part, dealt with fewer cases and less spread. While these guidelines are not "Licensing Regulations," they are a significant way to protect the health of providers, children and their families. It is also a significant way to protect your business and the ability to operate.

With the holiday season upon us, we will have to find new ways to celebrate. Traditional large, indoor, non-socially distanced gatherings will have to be re-thought. This is an excellent time to brainstorm ways to experience the spirit of the holiday season but to celebrate in different ways.

On behalf of the entire Child Care Licensing Program, I wish you a joyous holiday season. Whatever traditions your Family Child Care Home and your family have, let's create some new ones.

You may find that this year more than ever, the ability to be thankful, merry and appreciative of the small things that bring us joy are even more meaningful than before. I am hopeful that 2021 brings peace, calm and togetherness.



This is a reminder to add yourself, substitutes, employees and any household members that have been fingerprinted, to the Employee/Contractor Roster in the Clearinghouse. This is a regulation; I. Personnel A.3.m.

It is important to have an updated roster because the retention date on the roster is the date that renewal screenings must be submitted by or the Clearinghouse will no longer retain the fingerprints and you will have to go to a vendor again to be fingerprinted at a higher cost than renewing online. You will receive notifications 60 days and 30 days prior to the retention date on the roster. Please do not submit the renewal screening any earlier than 60 days as the Clearinghouse will not recognize it.

Your Specialist will need to verify that your roster is up to date. If you have not already updated your roster, please do so. Once you have your roster please print a copy and send it to your Licensing Specialist. If you need help or have any questions, please call your Licensing Specialist.

#### STEPS TO CREATE A ROSTER IN THE CLEARINGHOUSE:

- Log into the Clearinghouse.
- Go to Initiate Screening.
- Enter Social Security Number and last name and click on Search.
- Once the profile comes up, scroll to the bottom and click on Add Employment/Contractor Roster.
- Follow the prompts to input information for Owner/Household Member/Substitute/Employee.
- To check and print your roster, go to the top of the profile and click on Employee/Contractor Roster.

Happy Holidays!

Jorie



#### Layout & Design



Lisa Zacharia

#### Inside This Issue

'Tis The Season	1
Your Updated Roster	1
Bornoff's Bulletin Board	1
News From Epidemiology	2
Product Recalls	3
Creative Corner	4
Staff Spotlight	5



Faith Bornoff, M.Ed.  
Executive Director



Saying goodbye is never easy! In October, we as a community, had to say goodbye to Lillie Williams-Banks as she retired from the Pinellas County License Board. After more than 30 years of service to the State of Florida, it was time for her to spend more time with her family and enjoy all that retirement brings. I want to personally say thank you to those who took the time to participate in Lillie's Drive-through Retirement Event. She was very surprised and it was a huge success!

I am happy to announce that we have successfully identified a new Licensing Specialist to join our team. Ms. Tammy Sharpe began her training with the Pinellas County License Board on November 30<sup>th</sup>. I hope that you will join me in welcoming her if she visits your Family Child Care Home over the next few months while she is learning her new role.

It will take some time to effectively train Tammy, so if you had Lillie as your Licensing Specialist, please know that you may have a different staff member conduct your inspection during this transitional time. Our staff will work together to ensure all of you affected by this change are taken care of.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience as we complete this transition. Our staff are always available should you have any questions. You are encouraged to call our office anytime.



Wishing you a wonderful holiday season!

Faith Bornoff



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## Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County NEWS FROM EPIDEMIOLOGY

### COVID-19 & Food Safety Around the Holidays

The holidays are soon approaching which means more time with family, friends and food! We want to ensure that everyone stays safe this year so we're providing some tips to have a safer celebration and help prevent foodborne illnesses.

Everyone can make the holidays safer by celebrating with people within their household or hosting virtual gatherings. If you are attending an event outside your home, several factors should be considered to reduce the risk of possible COVID-19 infection:

- Plan ahead and ask guests to avoid contact with people outside of their households for 14 days before the gathering.
- Consider outdoor gatherings or indoor venues with proper ventilation. Allow for enough space so that everyone can maintain a safe distance. (6 feet apart or two arm lengths)



- More people, more risk. Consider having a smaller gathering and ask attendees to wear a mask when not eating or drinking.
- Guests should avoid direct contact, including handshakes and hugs.
- Encourage attendees to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Provide hand sanitizer, that contains at least 60% alcohol, in locations with high touch surfaces.
- Do not host or participate in celebrations if you or anyone in your household are having symptoms of COVID-19, waiting for COVID-19 test results, or have been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 10 days.

#### Time to eat! Here are some food safety tips to prevent foodborne illness:

- Do not make food for others while sick! This can contaminate food and cause others to fall ill as well.
- WASH YOUR HANDS! Hand hygiene is so important, now more than ever. We should be washing our hands before and after cooking, after using the bathroom, after contact with trash & prior to eating.
- Don't thaw raw food on the counter. This can enhance the proliferation of germ spread and contaminate surrounding areas.
- Cook all meat thoroughly; utilize cooking thermometers to maintain extra caution.



- Avoid cross-contamination! Make sure raw foods are prepared separately from other foods. Wash your hands in between and immediately put cookware/dishes no longer in use in the sink or dishwasher.
- Avoid the consumption of any raw dough or batter to avoid illnesses like Salmonella or E. Coli.
- Store food safely. Do not keep food sitting out for more than 2 hours. Refrigerator temperatures should be at or below 40° Fahrenheit and freezer temperatures should be at or below 0° Fahrenheit.



#### Turkey Safety:

- \* Refrigerator: Thaw 24 hours for every 4-5 lbs. (below 40° F refrigerator temperature)
- \* Cold Water: Wrap Turkey in leak proof bag and submerge in cold water. Make sure water is replaced every 30 minutes.

◆ 4-12 lbs.	2-6 hours
◆ 12-16 lbs.	6-8 hours
◆ 16-20 lbs.	8-10 hours
◆ 20-24 lbs.	10-12 hours

#### RESOURCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, November 9). *Holidays*. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, October 14). *Food safety tips for the holidays*. <https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/communication/holidays.html>

United States Department of Agriculture (2013, July 31). *Turkey basics: Safe thawing*. <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/food-safety-education/get-answers/food-safety-fact-sheets/poultry-preparation/>

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**Prestone Products Recalls Antifreeze Due to Failure to Meet Child Resistant Packaging Requirements; Risk of Poisoning:**



Prestone Products toll-free at 888-269-0750 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CT Monday through Friday or online at [www.prestone.com](http://www.prestone.com) and click on Safety Notice at the top of the homepage for more information.



**Porter World Trade Recalls Ron Jon Surf Shop Sippy Cup Due to Violations of Federal Lead Content and Phthalates Bans**

Email at [recall@porterworldtrade.com](mailto:recall@porterworldtrade.com) or online at [www.porterworldtrade.com](http://www.porterworldtrade.com) and click on "Product Recall" at the bottom of the page for more information.

Porter World Trade at 800-282-2777 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET Monday through Friday.

**Jakks Pacific Recalls to Repair Morboard® Skate & Scoot Scooters Due to Fall Hazard**

Jakks Pacific online at [www.jakks.com](http://www.jakks.com) and click on "Safety Notices" at the bottom of the page or toll-free at 855-602-5464 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. PT Monday through Friday for more information.



**Walker Edison Recalls Chests Due to Tip-Over and Entrapment Hazards**



Walker Edison toll-free at 833-208-3600, email at [recall1020@walkeredison.com](mailto:recall1020@walkeredison.com), or at [www.walkeredison.com](http://www.walkeredison.com) and click on "Recall" for more information.



**Bolek's Craft Supplies Recalls Wintergreen Essential Oil Due to Failure to Meet Child Resistant Packaging Requirement; Risk of Poisoning**

Bolek's Craft Supplies at 800-743-2723 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, email at [order@bolekscrafts.com](mailto:order@bolekscrafts.com), or online at [http://www.bolekscrafts.com/Wintergreen\\_Recall.html](http://www.bolekscrafts.com/Wintergreen_Recall.html) or [www.bolekscrafts.com](http://www.bolekscrafts.com) and click on "Recall" at the top of the page for more information.

## Target Recalls Toddler Boots Due to Choking Hazard

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



## Creative Corner

Fun, educational activities kids LOVE

## HANDPRINT ORNAMENTS

**Capture a child's footprint or handprint in this easy DIY salt dough ornament.**

**Step-by-Step Directions:** You should be able to mix the dough and create a set of ornaments in under 30 minutes, but you'll need to allow three hours of baking time.

**Step 1: Make the salt dough for your ornaments by combining flour, salt, and water. Knead the dough until smooth—it should have a play-dough-like consistency. Divide the dough evenly into two separate balls and add a few drops of food coloring to each dough ball and knead to swirl the color into the dough. Place the dough on a parchment-lined baking sheet and roll the dough into a tube. Twist two doughs rolls together to combine the colors and create a marbled effect, then wrap the twist around itself to create a ball. Use a rolling pin to roll the dough out to 1/4-inch thickness.**

**Step 2: Create Print** Press a hand (or a foot!) into the flattened dough to create the imprint. You may need to press down on the top of the child's hand to make sure you get a good imprint. To cut a perfect circle around the handprint, look for a bowl that's bigger than the handprint and turn it upside down over the print. Press the bowl into the dough to create a perfectly round ornament. Pull away excess dough. Poke a hole where the ornament will hang using a pencil or plastic straw. Bake the ornament at 250 degrees for 90 minutes; flip, then bake another 90 minutes.

**Step 3: Bake & Hang Handprint Ornaments.** After baking, allow the handprint ornament to cool. You can decorate your salt dough ornament with crafting glue, glitter, and other embellishments. Then string a ribbon through the hole and hang on your Christmas tree. Continue crafting with the kids by making one of our favorite easy homemade Christmas ornaments.



... Or Try These!



• 2 cups flour



• 1 cup salt



• 1 cup warm water



• Food coloring



• Rolling pin



• Pencil or straw



• Ribbon



• Scissors



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## Child Care Licensing Program

Florida Department of Health in Pinellas  
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**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

### **Kathi Merino** Licensing Specialist



I have always loved the child care field, so when I got a lead on an opening in Child Care Licensing as the Administrative Secretary, I applied for it and got the job! A couple of years later, when a Licensing Specialist position opened, I applied for that because it's the job I really, really wanted. I've been with Child Care Licensing for 5 1/2 years now and love the group of women with whom I work. Plus, knowing that I am making child care in Pinellas County safe for the children in care is very important to me. Prior to Child Care Licensing, I was a preschool teacher and an assistant for 17 years.

My husband Joe and I have been married for 29 years. Our 24 year old daughter is married and works in the insurance field and our 21 year old daughter just graduated from USF and is a preschool teacher. I also have two dogs, Sam and Bentley, both poodles, whom I adore.

I grew up in Massachusetts and went to Lesley College in Cambridge. My major was Human Services and my minor,

Psychology. Later on, I moved to San Diego where I met my husband. In 1990, we moved to Florida.

In my free time, I love to watch sports, spend time with family and do rock painting. People love getting painted rocks as gifts, so there are lots of them in our office. :)

I think the qualities of great child care providers are creativity, patience, empathy, organization, brightness and cleanliness.

I love my job even with all its challenges. It really is my calling.

*Happy Holidays,*  
**Kathi**

