As we transition from the year 2012 and welcome the New Year, 2013, the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) would like to thank licensees and stakeholders for their continued support and input in development of the child care update and other licensing matters.

We strive to promote the health, safety, and quality of life for children in child care facilities, and will continue to use the updates to communicate to the public and assist with the interpretation of the laws and regulations pertaining to child care.

New Program Administrator

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Paula d’Albenas as the new Child Care Program Administrator. Paula was the Assistant Program Administrator for the Northern Child Care Program Office. Paula has extensive experience with CCLD from a Licensing Program Analyst through the Assistant Program Administrator.

As the Child Care Program Administrator, Paula will be responsible for the identification of key operational and policy issues in the Child Care Program. She will oversee thirteen regional offices and 341 authorized positions responsible for monitoring 52,000 facilities and monitoring three county licensing programs. Paula began her new appointment on December 10, 2012.

We Have Moved

Effective October 1, 2012, the Child Care Program Eureka Office moved to Arcata.

The previous address was:
1330 Bayshore Way, Suite 101, Eureka, California 95501

The new address is:
749 F Street, Arcata, California 95521
Do you work at a California licensed child care center?

If you do, your center needs to follow the requirements of the Healthy Schools Act (HSA). In addition to the requirements for the State of California to uphold, this law also requires that you inform staff and parents of your students about pesticide use at your center.

There are four main requirements:

1. Send a list of pesticide products you think might be used at your center to parents and staff every year. Pesticides applied by you or your pest management professional (PMP) (contractor, pest control person or exterminator) must be on the list. You will need to ask the PMP for a list of pesticides they might use.

2. Give parents and staff the opportunity to register with you if they want to be notified every time a pesticide is applied at your center. For those registering, you must send them notification of a pesticide application at least 72 hours beforehand.

3. Post a warning sign about the pesticide application 24 hours before the application and leave it in place for 72 hours afterwards.

4. File records of pesticide applications at your center for four years.

You must meet these requirements even if someone else applies the pesticides. For more information about the HSA requirements go to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation School IPM Website: or contact Belinda Messenger at bmessenger@cdpr.ca.gov.

Note: The requirements for the HSA are established in Education Code Section 17609, and Health and Safety Code Section 1596.845.
California law allows the transfer of active criminal record clearance and exemption information between contracting county licensing offices and between contracting counties and state licensing offices, as long as the clearance is for the same licensing category.

**Did you know?**

- A clearance can remain active as long as the individual is associated to a licensed facility. If an individual is disassociated from a facility, he/she must be associated to another facility (or the same facility if they are rehired) within two years or he/she will become inactive.
- If an individual becomes inactive, he/she must be printed and cleared again before working, residing or volunteering in a licensed facility.
- Licensees should not request individuals with active clearances to be reprinted and should submit a transfer request to the Department before the individual has contact with children or the facility will be in violation of the law and subject to civil penalties.

**Interested in transferring criminal clearances?**

A licensee or applicant for a license seeking a transfer must provide the following documentation:

1. A signed Criminal Background Clearance Transfer Request, LIC 9182 (Rev. 4/02).
2. A copy of the individual's driver's license, or
3. A valid identification card issued by Department of Motor Vehicles, or
4. A valid photo identification issued by another state or the United States government if the individual is not a California resident.
5. Any other documentation required by the Department (e.g., LIC 508, Criminal Record Statement [Rev. 1/03] and job description).

Additionally, a Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) check must be submitted if the transfer is to a facility serving children and the individual has not previously submitted a CACI check or the date of the previous CACI inquiry was made prior to January 1, 1999.

Remember, it is the licensee's responsibility to ensure employees, adult residents and volunteers specified in law, have criminal record clearances for each license and that licensing is notified of changes to the roster and criminal record clearances.

To learn more about the criminal background clearance requirements and the associated civil penalties, we encourage you to read Health & Safety Code Section 1596.871, and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 101170, 101195, 102370 and 102395.

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**Community Care Licensing Division (Fingerprinting) website provides the following:**

- Background Check Process
- Livescan Application Process and Fees
- California Background Clearance
- Employment Agencies
- TrustLine
- Child Abuse Central Index (CACI)
In a study conducted by the University of California, Berkeley, it was revealed that most contaminant levels in child care and preschool facilities were similar to those measured in other studies in California schools and residences. For chemicals with health based dose or exposure benchmarks, levels for most were usually below levels of concern. However, a few chemicals exceeded health guideline levels and mitigation strategies may be warranted to reduce exposure to those chemicals, especially formaldehyde.

What can child care facilities do to reduce potential exposures?

California Environmental Protection Agency recommends the following:

- Purchase wood products and furniture that comply with California’s formaldehyde regulations. Purchase pressed wood furnishings and building materials labeled as California 93120 Compliant for Formaldehyde Phase two, or products certified as California ultra low emitting formaldehyde.

- Request and purchase low formaldehyde products. Also, wash permanent press clothing before wearing.

- Turn on the range hood when using a gas stove. Increasing ventilation with outdoor air will also help reduce indoor formaldehyde levels.

- Clean frequently to minimize dust, especially with a High Efficiency Particle Arrestance vacuum cleaner. This can reduce exposure to compounds such as lead and other metals, and some phthalates that are largely found in dust.

- Clean out old pesticides, solvents, and cleaning products. To help reduce indoor levels of pesticides and volatile organic compounds.

To read the study regarding environmental exposures in family based child care facilities conducted by researchers from the University of California, Berkeley please visit the Air Resources Board website.
California law (effective January 1, 2012) states each child must be properly restrained in a child safety seat, booster seat or other restraint system in the back seat, until the child is eight years old or at least 4’9” in height. Passengers who are 16 years of age and over are subject to California’s mandatory seat belt law. Vehicle Code Section 27360 and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 101225.

To assist you in assuring the health and safety of children in care, we wanted to share with you the, California Highway Patrol (CHP) recommendation for keeping children safe in vehicles.

**Step 1**
**Rear - Facing Seats**
- Infant only or rear-facing convertible seat.
- Newborn to at least one year of age and at least 20 pounds.
- May stay rear-facing longer to maximum rear-facing weight limit of infant or convertible seat.

**Step 2**
**Forward—Facing Seats (with a harness)**
- Convertible or combination seat.
- Children must be a least one year of age and 20 pounds.
- Children should remain in 5-point harness until they reach the top weight or height limit allowed.

**Step 3**
**Booster Seats**
(high-back or backless)
- Children under eight years of age or under 4’9” in height.
- High-back or boosters must be used when the vehicle does not have a head-rest or if vehicle’s seat back is lower than child’s ears.
- Must be used with lap and shoulder belts.
- Never use with lap belt only.
- Recommended to use until child fits seat belt correctly as described below.

**Step 4**
**Seat Belt**
- Children eight years of age or 4’9” in height are permitted to use a seat belt; however, the seat belt should be checked for proper fit.
- To confirm if a child over eight years old can safely ride in a seat belt alone, all of the following should occur:
  - Child can sit with back against vehicle seat back.
  - Knees bend naturally over the edge of vehicle seat.
  - Lap belt fits low and snug across top of thighs.
  - Shoulder belt crosses the collar-bone and center of chest.
PROVIDING A SAFE SLEEP ENVIRONMENT

Become a subject matter expert and help spread the word and reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and other sleep related causes of infant death.

1. Sleep related causes of infant death are those linked to how or where a baby sleeps or slept.
2. SIDS is the leading cause of death in babies one month to one year of age.
3. Most SIDS deaths happen when babies are between one month and four months of age.
4. Babies should have tummy time while they are awake and when someone is watching them.

When infants are in your care, please remember…..

- Infants sleep safest on their backs.
- An infant’s sleep surface matters.
- Keep soft objects, toys, and loose bedding out of the baby’s sleep area.
- Do not smoke around babies.
- Do not share a bed.
- Infants must be actively supervised while sleeping in a safe sleep environment.
- Sleeping areas are to be ventilated and at a temperature that is comfortable for a lightly clothed adult. Do not let a baby get too hot while sleeping.
- Report events including death or injury requiring medical treatment. Per California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 101212 for Child Care Centers, Section 102416.2 for Family Child Care Homes, and Health and Safety Code, Section 1597.467.

Did you know…..

- SIDS is the sudden, unexplained death of a baby under the age of one and there is no known cause even after a complete investigation.
- Unexpected sudden deaths with or without a clear cause are called “Sudden Unexpected Infant Death” (SUID). One-half of all SUID cases are SIDS.

Does your safe sleep environment look like this?
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) nutrition program “Grow It, Try It, Like It!” is organized around a garden theme, based at the imaginary Tasty Acres Farm. The program introduces new fruits and vegetables to preschool age children. The goal is to improve children’s lifelong eating and physical activity habits through nutrition education based on the principles of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the MyPyramid Food Guidance System.

Routine food choices for young children are determined by their families and adult caregivers. Grow It, Try It, Like It! links activities at child care facilities with resources for use at home. For example, children touch, smell, and taste new fruits and vegetables at home and at a child care facility. Children also learn that fruits and vegetables are grown from plants or trees in the ground. Planting activities will help children connect the delicious food choices at the table with the different growing conditions and plants that produce fruits and vegetables.

When to start planting activities.....

- Growing all or some of the fruits and vegetables provides children with fun-filled growing seasons.
- Check with local nurseries, orchards, and farms to plan field trips to see as many of the fruits and vegetables grown at the Tasty Acres Farm.
- Strawberries and spinach are spring and early summer crops.
- Cantaloupe, crookneck squash, and peaches are summer and late summer crops.
- Sweet potatoes are early fall crops.

Grow It, Try It, Like It! Consists of seven booklets. Booklet one contains the Introduction, Teaching Guide, Garden Art and Crafts and Tool Shed Resources. Booklets two through seven contain the activities for the six fruit and vegetable lessons.

Visit the USDA website to learn how incorporate Grow It, Try It, Like It! Into your program.
EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT

**LICENSING ENFORCEMENT OF DROP SIDE CRIBS**

*What we know about the new crib standards ...*
- Beginning December 28, 2012, any crib used by Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes must meet new and improved federal safety standards.
- This ban is more than a drop side issue, and immobilizing your current crib will not make it compliant.
- You cannot determine compliance by looking at the product.

*As it relates to licensing enforcement ...*
- All Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes must replace their current cribs with new, compliant cribs before December 28, 2012.
- No Citation will be issued by licensing prior to December 28, 2012.
- Child care facilities that continue to use drop-side cribs for children in care beginning December 28, 2012, are in violation of a child’s personal rights: California Code of Regulations, Section 101223(a) (2) for Child Care Centers, and Section 102423(a)(2) for Family Child Care Homes.

The licensee shall ensure that each child is accorded safe, healthful and comfortable accommodations, furnishings and equipment to meet his/her needs.

To learn more about the drop-side crib recall, and enforcement guidelines visit the Consumer Product Safety Commission website.

**NAP NANNY RECALLED**

The Nap Nanny is a portable infant recliner designed for sleeping, resting and playing. The recliner includes a shaped foam base with an inclined indentation for the baby to sit and a fitted fabric cover with a three point harness. Between 2009 and early 2012 thousands of Nap Nanny’s were sold at retail establishments. The CPSC has discontinued this product. At the time of the July 2010 recall, CPSC was aware of one death that had occurred in a Nap Nanny recliner and 22 reports of infants hanging or falling out over the side of the Nap Nanny. For additional information visit the CPSC website.
CHILDREN AND HIGH CHOLESTEROL

Did you know children can have high cholesterol?

Middle aged adults are not the only ones with cholesterol problems. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states almost one in ten children and teenagers have higher cholesterol levels. This puts them on a track that could lead to heart disease as adults.

Serving healthy economic meals can aid in the reduction of high cholesterol in children.

Helpful tips:

- Serve fruits and vegetables that are in season. Learn about the Tasty Acres Farm and how to grow fruits and vegetables at United States Department of Agriculture’s website.
- Plan meals in advance. ChooseMyPlate.gov for useful tips.
- Learn more about children and high cholesterol at healthfinder.gov.

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF BACTERIA

Great tips to help prevent food poisoning.

- Wash hands often. Please revisit our Fall 2012 Child Care Update (page 10) for detailed instructions.
- Make sure utensils and surfaces, are washed immediately to avoid spreading bacteria to the children in your care. Bacteria can spread throughout the kitchen and get onto cutting boards, utensils and counter tops. Wash all fruits and vegetables. Do not wash meat, poultry, or eggs. Keep in mind, even if you plan to peel fruits and vegetables prior to eating them, it is extremely important to wash them first. The bacteria can spread from the outside to the inside as they are cut or peeled.

Visit foodsecurity.gov to learn how to prevent the spread of bacteria and learn why meat, poultry and eggs should not be washed.
SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRAGEDY

The Community Care Licensing Division, Child Care Program would like to express our deepest sympathy for the victims and the families of the Sandy Hook tragedy.

Due to this recent tragedy in Connecticut, we understand many facilities will be revisiting their emergency disaster plans. Prior to making any changes consult with your local fire marshal and regional office to ensure compliance with the applicable laws. We will be addressing the issue of safety at centers and homes in more detail in our next update.

LIQUID LAUNDRY PACKETS

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is advising parents and caregivers to lock up single-load liquid laundry packets and keep them away from children.

Liquid laundry packets are attractive to children because they are soft and colorful and resemble familiar items like candy and teething products.

These items also dissolve quickly when placed in the mouth or are handled with wet hands. Children who are exposed to the chemicals are at risk of serious injury because they can be toxic.

CPSC recommends these steps to prevent unintentional poisonings and eye injuries:

1. Do not let children handle laundry packets.
2. Keep the liquid laundry packets sealed in their original packaging, and make sure they are locked up and out of a child’s sight and reach.
3. If swallowed or exposed to the eye, immediately call Poison Help at 1-800-222-1222.

Learn more about single load laundry packets by reading the CPSC flyer (PDF).

CHAPTERED LEGISLATION

A summary and implementation plan for pertinent bills chaptered in 2012 that affect Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes is available on the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) website. Unless otherwise noted in the Implementation Plans, these bills are effective on January 1, 2013. Licensees are encouraged to review the plans to ensure compliance with the provisions of these bills. If you have any questions, you are encouraged to contact your local licensing office. As a reminder, licensees are responsible for complying with other new laws that impact facility operation.
RACE TO THE TOP

The Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) initiative focuses on improving early learning and development programs for young children by supporting states efforts to:

1. Increase the number and percentage of low-income and disadvantaged children in each age group of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who are enrolled in high-quality early learning programs.

2. Design and implement an integrated system of high-quality early learning programs and services.

3. Ensure use of assessments that conform the recommendations of the National Research Council's reports on early childhood.

California will use a portion of the RTT-ELC grant to enhance the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Child Care Licensing Program’s website to include educational and training materials for consumers and providers.

Through the enhancement of the Child Care Licensing Program’s website and embarking into the eLearning wave of the educational future, it is believed CDSS will be able to:

- Educate child care providers on how to ensure compliance with licensing laws and regulations.
- Provide technical assistance to child care providers and consumers related to health and safety of children.
- Provide the public and licensing staff with resources and information related to child care licensing.

Please visit our website on a regular basis to view new developments and remain in touch with us regarding the RTT-ELC initiative.
LICENSED CHILD CARE STATISTICS

All statistics regarding State and county licensed child care facilities can be obtained by visiting the Child Care Licensing Division (CCLD) licensing statistics webpage.

If you have questions about items included in this Update, suggestions for future topics, or to be added to our mailing address, please contact Paula d’Albenas, Program Administrator, at (916) 651-6040. You may also visit our internet website at www.ccld.ca.gov to obtain copies of licensing Updates, office locations, provider letters, regulations, forms, the Licensing Evaluator Manual, or to learn more about licensing programs and services.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY HIRATSUKA
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division