

CCL News & Notes

SC Department of Social Services
Child Care Licensing and Regulatory Services
January, 2009 Volume 1, Issue 1



What's New?

Child Care Licensing and Regulatory Services is producing a newsletter again. This is the first edition. We plan to send out a newsletter once each quarter. *In the future, we will only e-mail newsletters and post them on our website at*

Child Care Licensing Contact Information

Region 1

Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg Counties

864-370-2318
800-637-8550 (toll-free)
864-241-1099 (fax)

Region 2

Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, McCormick, Richland, Saluda, Union, and York Counties

803-898-9001
888-202-1469 (toll-free)
803-898-9002 (fax)

Region 3

Allendale, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, and Orangeburg Counties

843-953-9780
800-260-0211 (toll-free)
843-953-9787 (fax)

Region 4

Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, and Williamsburg Counties

843-661-6623
800-464-9138 (toll-free)
843-661-7504 (fax)

Central Office:

2638 Two Notch Road
Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29204,
803-898-9020
800-556-7445 (toll-free)
803-898-9029 (fax)

Visit our website at:
<http://childcare.sc.gov>

<http://childcare.sc.gov>. If you want to continue receiving the CCL News & Notes via e-mail, please contact Rick Knight at richard.knight@dss.sc.gov.

In the newsletter, we will present a "What's New" section providing information on regulations, policies, and other general topics and issues important to the child care community. We also have a section from our director, a section for providers, and a section for parents.

Speaking of "What's New," we welcome back Cynthia Lara to Licensing as our new director. Cynthia worked in Licensing for several years and has returned to us after a year in another division of DSS.

From the Director Cynthia Lara

I am happy to be back in Child Care Licensing after working in another area of DSS for a year. The staff and I look forward to the challenges of the upcoming year while we face the serious economic situation in our state. As we continue our inspections of child care facilities, the safety and protection of our children will remain our highest priority.

In this newsletter, we will present valuable information for providers, caregivers and parents to help create an environment in which children can grow, learn and thrive. Quality care ensures the nurturing and protection that children need and deserve. Thank you for all you do for the children of South Carolina.

Cynthia

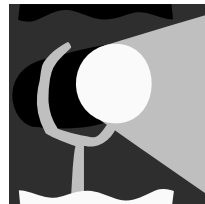
In other news from Licensing, IBT continues to expand their Live Scan operations. In addition to the 5 current sites, they have plans to open 6 additional permanent sites. They will also continue their mobile service in outlying areas. At this time, there are a total of 12 permanent and mobile sites listed on the IBT website. You can check out these sites by clicking on "Locations" at www.ibtfingerprint.com.

We have seen excellent turn around times with Live Scan and Central Registry checks. The biggest issue slowing down Central Registry checks is incomplete information on forms. Please fill out the Form 2924's completely to ensure quick results.

We are excited about this newsletter and hope you find it informative and useful. Thanks for your involvement in child care!

Important Dates

- Jan. 20 - Domestic Violence Training (Columbia)
- Jan. 22 - Domestic Violence Training (Beaufort)
- Jan. 30 - 2009 Regulatory Fees Due
- Jan. 31 - Domestic Violence Training (Florence)
- Feb. 12 - Domestic Violence Training (Charleston)
- Feb. 24 - Domestic Violence Training (Aiken)
- Mar. 24 - Domestic Violence Training (Columbia)
- Mar. 28 - Domestic Violence Training (Greenville)



CCL Staff Spotlight Jennie Stanton

Each quarter, we will spotlight a Child Care Licensing staff member in the newsletter. Our first spotlight is on Licensing Specialist Jennie Stanton. Jennie is a 12-year veteran of Licensing. She works out of the Region IV office in Florence. She serves the Effingham and Timmonsville areas of Florence County as well as Chesterfield County and half of Darlington County. Jennie and her husband Hugh celebrated their 30th anniversary on December 30. She states that the most rewarding part of her job is "working with providers who have pride in their facilities and are eager to learn and follow regulations, policy, and state law."

Away from work, Jennie enjoys reading, the outdoors, playing Scrabble, listening to music, and (in her words) "of course shopping." Before coming to Licensing, Jennie was a supervisor of the Child Protective Services Assessment Unit in Florence. Her CPS experience has proven to be a valuable resource for Jennie and her colleagues in Region IV. She came to Licensing after leaving state government for a while to be a housewife. She wanted to get back to work, and there was an opening in Licensing. "It was a great opportunity to work with people."

Child Care Licensing received
1,346 complaints in 2008.

For the Providers • Preventing the Flu in 2008-2009

The flu is caused by the influenza virus, which infects the respiratory tract (nose, throat, and lungs). Unlike the common cold, the flu can cause severe illness and life threatening complications in many people. Because the flu virus changes from year to year, annual vaccination against the flu is recommended. Flu season can begin as early as October and last as late as May. The period of illness usually peaks between late December and March.

Studies have shown that children younger than 2 years old—even healthy children — are more likely

than older children to end up in the hospital if they get the flu. Young children in group settings are particularly important to the spread of influenza. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all children should get influenza vaccine. This includes both healthy and those with high risk conditions, 6 months through 18 years old. (Influenza vaccine is not approved for use in children younger than 6 months old.) Also, all adults who have contact with children younger than 5 years old should get vaccinated. Vaccine for caregivers who have contact with children younger

than 6 months of age is especially important because children less than 6 months old cannot receive the vaccine.

This excerpt is from an article from the American Academy of Pediatrics. The entire article can be viewed on their website at www.healthychildcare.org/

Know the Truth...

SIDS is not caused by immunizations, vomiting, or choking.

Provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics

Regulatory Fees...

In 2004 the State Budget and Control Board authorized DSS to collect regulatory fees for child care facilities. Providers that received their permits during 2006 and 2008 are scheduled to pay their fee in January 2009. Fees will be due every **two years**. If your fee is due in 2009, you will not pay another fee until 2011. Fees are due no later than January 30, 2009. Any fee paid after January 30th will be considered late, and renewals will not be issued to providers who have not paid the appropriate fee. Please contact the Licensing Central Office at 803-898-9020 or 800-556-7445 (toll-free) if you have any questions concerning fees. Fee notification letters were mailed on December 16, 2008 to facilities that owe in 2009.

For the Parents • What to Look For in Child Care

One of the new standards developed by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) focuses on the relationships that young children develop with adults and other children. When you visit a program, look for evidence that teachers are fostering positive relationships, such as:

- Classrooms are welcoming to all children, and children are encouraged to join the group.
- Teachers communicate with children in a warm manner and respond to their needs. Teachers use a gentle tone of voice and bend down to speak with children at eye level.
- Infants get individual attention from teachers, who communicate with smiles and other nonverbal behavior, and also talk with them, so that infants

start to recognize and understand words.

- Teachers provide a balance of group activities and one-on-one activities, to encourage children to develop both group and individual relationships.
- Children have opportunities to play and interact with other children, which helps them build friendships and develop social skills, such as working together and taking turns.
- Teachers and families develop relationships and share information about the children, including family background such as religion and home language.

This article is re-printed in part with permission from NAEYC.

Product Recall

DSS Regulation 114-507C(2) states that “furniture, toys, and recreational equipment shall meet the standards of the US Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), if applicable, and that recalled products shall not be accessible to children.” To view recalled products and/or report a dangerous product or related injury, call CPSC’s hotline at 800-638-2772 or visit their website at www.cpsc.gov. The most recent recalls include:

- OKK Trading Toy Army Figure due to violations of lead paint standard
- ImagePLAY Bead Maze Toys due to laceration hazard
- Green Mountain Vista Repair Window Blinds due to near strangulation of a child
- Roman Blinds sold exclusively by IKEA due to the strangulation death of a child
- Dive Sticks sold by Target due to impalement hazard
- Cobra Electronics Two-Way Radios with rechargeable batteries sold exclusively by Toys “R” Us; due to chemical burn hazard
- Modell’s Swim “N Score Dive Sticks due to risk of impalement
- JA-RU Toy Trains due to choking hazard
- OKK Trading Toy TV’s due to violation of lead paint standard



Training Announcement

The USC Center for Child and Family Studies offers **free** training sessions on Family Violence for childcare staff. Section 20-7-3080 of the Children’s Code of Law requires DSS to make this training available to providers. The dates and sites for the next seven sessions are listed in the column to the right.

Training Dates/Sites

Jan. 20—Columbia
Jan. 22—Beaufort
Jan. 31—Florence
Feb. 12—Charleston
Feb. 24—Aiken
Mar. 24—Columbia
Mar. 28—Greenville

More information about the training is available from your regional office, the USC Center for Child and Family Studies (803-777-3800), or the DSS Child Care Services website at <http://childcare.sc.gov/main/providers/services/index.aspx?sec=4>.

New ABC Program Website

The ABC child care program helps eligible families pay for child care services so that they can work or go to school or training. ABC also helps make quality child care services available and accessible to families.

Child care providers voluntarily enrolled in ABC are reimbursed according to the quality of care provided.

For more information about the ABC program, visit their new website at www.abccqualitycare.org.



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