



Child Care Chat

New Year: Fresh Start

Along with the New Year comes a fresh start to all we do in child care. Now is a great time for some pre-spring cleaning! This cleaning can be in the facility itself or it can be in your office! Files are often stuffed to the max and pushed aside. Remember, a little organization can go a long way!

A deep clean in the facility includes cleaning walls and floors, dusting shelves, decluttering,

and cleaning toys and equipment. A deep clean day can be arranged with staff and the facility can be conquered as a team. Here are a few tips:

-Declutter rooms first; throw away floating paperwork, broken toys, and art supplies.

-Remove toys from room that aren't being used and replace with different toys.

-Take a look around the room and remove items that haven't been used in

the past month or two.

-Remove items that children may have outgrown.

-Donate the pile of lost and found items that have been sitting around for the past year.

-Scrub children's furniture, wash rugs and curtains, wipe down windowsills, etc.

Give staff and children a clean slate for spring!



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Special points of interest:

- ☺ Remember to notify your Surveyor regarding closures for any reason!
- ☺ Your Surveyor can be a great source for ideas and suggestions!
- ☺ The Nevada Registry site has a Job Board! You might just find your next great employee there!

Child Care Advisory Committee

This committee meets monthly to discuss, examine, consider, and make recommendations concerning Nevada's child care industry.

Child Care Advisory meetings are open to all child care providers to attend either in person or by calling in, so come and have your voice heard! If you are unable to attend in person you can always call in!

Agenda information will be posted in designated state and county offices as well as on the Nevada Registry website.

Current scheduled meeting dates are:

- * March 10, 2015
- * June 9, 2015
- * September 8, 2015
- * December 8, 2015

Meetings begin at 1:30 pm.



For more meeting information, please visit our website at http://www.health.nv.gov/HCQC_Childcare.htm

and subscribe to our Child Care Listserv today!

As a listserv member you will receive up-to-date information concerning Child Care Licensing, advisory meeting dates, times, places and meeting minutes.

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Surveyor Spotlight! Diane Hardy

Diane has a wealth of knowledge to provide to her peers. She is always willing to lend a hand in order to educate someone, whether it be about resources, current events, or just life in general ☺ Her experience is very much appreciated and valued! -Terri Buster, Child Care Licensing Surveyor Supervisor

Diane is a great person to talk to when you need info on available resources.... She's like the cat lady, but of resources. Haha... plus Diane has a great sense of humor and is a great office mate!! She and I have some very interesting conversations sometimes... so it's never boring!!! -Stephen Burdon, Child Care Licensing Surveyor

Diane is a tremendous provider of knowledge to all of us. She ensures we get current information on important Early Childhood Education issues and is always generously sharing all types of resources to pass along to our providers.—Tina Fernandez, Child Care Licensing Surveyor

Diane is the one to go to if you need a resource in the community! She brings a lot of ideas and experience to Child Care Licensing. Diane is very dedicated and is involved in multiple committees. It is a pleasure working

with Diane!! - Edith Farmer, Child Care Licensing Surveyor

As a new surveyor I feel so blessed to be around a group of surveyors that are so welcoming and caring. Diane in particular has an outgoing personality that keeps everyone around her going. She's one funny lady who loves to crack jokes, and has a song for any situation which is sure to put a smile on your face. Diane I am glad to have you as a co-worker, may you have many, many years of continued success. - Yah-ner Walker, Child Care Licensing Surveyor

Diane brings wisdom and knowledge to child care licensing. She has the ability to view a situation and relay in a fashion that is direct with empathy and a willingness to teach. She always makes time even when she doesn't have any.—Latisha Brown, Child Care Licensing Program Manager

Diane and I both started working for Child Care Licensing the same time 4 years ago. She has a wealth of knowledge from her past experiences working many years in the child care industry. We have learned so much from each other and have grown together to build a stronger team. When you need information to give



and share with our providers, everyone knows to go to Diane, The Resource Lady. If she doesn't have the information in her "organized" piles, then she will definitely find the information and get back to you. I enjoy working and sharing an office with Diane and look forward to what the future holds for us here at Child Care Licensing.- Kerra Fuentes, Child Care Licensing Surveyor

Diane brings her considerable knowledge and expertise to all things Early Child Education and Licensing! She has a great sense of humor and is always willing to lend a hand or her ear to a coworker in need! Diane has worn many hats in the Early Care and Education industry including working for the United Way, Head Start programs, and she also helped run the Classroom on Wheels "COW" bus. We are very fortunate to have Diane as a colleague and advocate. -Child Care Licensing Northern Staff

Helpful Reminders from Licensing:

Child Care Licensing will be closed on the following dates:

- January 1st: New Years Day
- January 19th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- February 16th: Presidents Day

**If you have any tips/tricks/helpful hints that you would like to share with providers please email them to tkaplan@health.nv.gov

Reg Review: Fingerprints/Consent and Release/Change in Personnel Forms

When hiring a new staff member it's easy to be excited for the extra help, but don't forget the important paperwork that goes with hiring that person! Within 24 hours of hiring a new staff member the facility must complete the following:

- Child Care Licensing must receive a complete Change in Personnel form
- Fingerprints must be taken **and** submitted to appropriate entity with fee. Procedure listed on form found on our website.
- Consent and Release form must be signed by law enforcement and sent to Child Care Licensing. Ensure all boxes are checked and form is complete.

Failure to submit paper work listed above in the 24 hour timeframe will result in a Notice of Violation and fines if there is a second occurrence.

When a staff member is terminated Child Care Licensing must be notified within 24 hours with a Change in Personnel form. All forms mentioned can be found on our website under the "forms" link.

Overcoming the Winter Blues with Seasonal Activities!

With the holidays behind us, it can often be difficult to think of fresh ideas for the New Year! Winter still has us firmly in its grasp and Spring still seems like it's forever away. Children, just like adults, can feel a little depressed after all of the hub-bub and activities are over and it is time to get back to "real life". There are still some easy ways to engage children in fun, educational activities. If you are located in an area that experiences snow, it is still important that children get outside for a bit each day. Have a snowman building contest between different classes. For areas where the weather is a little more forgiving, have a "field day" for the children. Engage them in simple group games, like Red Light, Green Light and activities outside.

This is a great time to enlist children's help in rearranging the class-

room and "cleaning up". Children can help sort toys and books that need to be replaced or repaired.

Additionally, there are several culturally relevant events that occur during this time of year that can be opportunities for learning and fun.

-January is when we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday. Children can be tasked with creating collages representing diversity by cutting pictures from old magazines.

-February is when many people in Asia celebrate the New Year. 2015 is the Year of the Sheep. Children can use paint daubers or cotton balls to create their own sheep on a red background (red is a lucky color!).

-March is when we welcome Spring back. Children can get a jump start on Spring while learning about how seeds grow. Use see through containers and wet paper towels to start bean seeds.

Children can draw pictures or tell a story about how their seeds are growing. Put some in a dark location and others in a window and have children explore what is the same and what is different about their seeds. As the weather gets warmer towards Spring, have children help to spruce up the playground by picking up trash, sweeping, planting flowers or vegetables.

Before you know it, Spring will be here!



Developmental Domains: The Developing Infant

During the first year of life, infants grow and develop more than at any other time during their lives. Many people, mistakenly, believe that infants are just little vessels that need to have their basic needs met and that is it. We know now that the tiniest of babies are developing relationships with the people and world around them even during their time in the womb. How can caregivers adapt their programs to meet the needs of babies? Here are some ideas:

- Adapt curriculum and activities to meet the needs of infants. Do not subscribe to a "one size fits all" paradigm. All infants need one on one with a consistent caregiver, but they also need opportunities to explore their world.

- Tummy time, in a safe, protected environment is essential to help babies develop their gross motor skills, holding their heads up, kicking legs, using their arms. Giving tiny ones things to grasp and reach for increases their fine motor skills.
- Talking to a babbling baby like you are having a conversation with them helps build language connections in the developing brain.
- Making eye contact and using different facial expressions while talking to babies increases their social-emotional development.
- Singing and dancing with a baby gives her opportunities to see the world from a different viewpoint.

Finally, allow for flexibility. Although many babies do well with a fairly rigid schedule, some babies are less likely to respond to that approach. Be responsive to infants needs and make sure that babies are not left for more than 15 minutes in a crib upon awakening. Swings are great for a fussy baby but be sure to move the baby to a crib once they fall asleep. Positional asphyxia is a possibility as the heavy head of an infant falls forward during sleep. Remember to step away and allow someone else to take over if you find yourself getting frustrated with a baby. Most of all, have fun and know that your work with babies paves the way for their bright futures!



Illness in Child Care:

Winter brings close quarters which is a major contributor to the spread of illness, especially in child care facilities.

A healthy child care environment minimizes additional work and stress for all employees, and it allows child care providers to focus on their children's learning needs.

Your facility's illness policy should include specific symptoms which would exclude children and staff from the child care setting.



Communication with parents is key to helping prevent the spread of infectious disease. Each morning staff can ask parents how their child is; the parent may bring up that the child had a cough the night prior or a runny nose. Keep in mind a child care provider is not responsible for diagnosing or treating illness, but properly reacting to symptoms.

Proper hygiene is also very important, hand washing should be part of the daily routine for both children and staff. Everyone should be washing hands:

upon arrival to the facility, after using the restroom, before/after certain play activities, and before/after snacks and meals.

If you should need any help or have questions about updating your illness policy please contact your surveyor.



https://www.cceionline.com/newsletters/December_10_ext.html

Monthly Happenings:

January is National Staying Healthy Month!



Now's the time to put all of those annual Wellness/ Childhood Obesity Prevention and Signs of Illness trainings to good use! Topics that can be utilized this month include; teaching children basic hygiene (review hand washing), healthy eating habits (healthy food taste test), being active (staff included! It encourages the children to be more active), and preventing the spread of illness (cough and sneeze into your elbow!). Lets make 2015 an active and healthy year!



February is National Children's Dental Health Month!

With all the candy and sweets that have been floating around the past few months, now is the perfect time to help children "brush up" on good oral health habits! Call and invite a Dentist or Dental Hygienist to come in and give a mini presentation to your facility! Many dental offices have kid friendly presentations along with goodies (toothbrushes and stickers) they can pass out to the children.

If you cannot get someone to come into your facility try some of these activities:

- Painting with toothbrushes (yellow paper teeth & white paint)
- Healthy food vs. Junk food sorting
- Apple Smiles for snack!

(Apple slices, peanut butter, & mini marshmallows)



-Review the importance of teeth; why do we need them, how do we keep them clean?

March is National Youth Art Month!



When children create art the lessons they learn go far beyond the art project itself. Making art encourages development of various skills such as social, communication, and fine motor. Children should be encouraged to create their own art, staff can assist in getting materials prepped but the child should be doing the majority of the work. Remember...it's OK for art projects to look different!

Let the children's imagination run wild!

Quick tip: Hang children's artwork at their eye level! They will learn to respect their own and others work and seeing their work hung up will give the children a true sense of pride.

State of Nevada Child Care Licensing

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Our vision for the Child Care Licensing Unit is to promote the healthy growth, development, and protection of children, increase availability of positive and nurturing learning environments and provide support for families by regulating and licensing high quality, developmentally appropriate, and flexible care, through a wide range of care options.

This vision involves mentoring and guiding child care providers to become advocates for children and family issues, as well as, foster the growth and development of the provider community. In support of this vision Child Care Licensing will work to expand the awareness of state legislators, local regulatory agencies and consumers so as to encourage support for improving the quality of child care environments for Nevada's children and families