



Wright County Licensing Newsletter April 2008

Looking for some new spring crafts and activities?

Try these websites...

www.easy-child-crafts.com/spring-craft-ideas.html

<http://crafts.kaboose.com/holidays/seasons/spring/>

http://familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts/season/specialfeature/spring_crafts_ms/

http://www.craftideas.info/html/cpi_spring.html

New Provider Handbook

Wright County licensing has developed a Child Care Provider Handbook for all providers. The handbook includes a new copy of the licensing rule as well as helpful reminders and clarification on parts of the rule that are sometimes difficult to understand. It also contains some tools that you can use to determine when is it "weather permitting" to go outside, and who can you call to have your fire extinguisher serviced. The handbooks will be delivered to all providers either at your next re-licensing visit or during a drop-in visit. If you would like to pick up a handbook, or have someone pick up a book for you, give your licensor a call and we can have a book waiting for you at our front desk.

Rule Reminder on Capacity

9502.0315 Definitions

Subpart 18. Licensed Capacity. "Licensed capacity" means the total number of children ten years of age or younger permitted at any one time in the residence. The licensed capacity includes all children of any caregiver when the children are present in the residence.

It is the responsibility of the provider to ensure that they are within their license capacity at all times. Any children ten years of age or younger count in your numbers, even if they are not a child "enrolled" in your childcare. You must take this into account when allowing others to visit the home during childcare hours, when allowing your school age children to bring friends home after school or when combining childcares with your neighbor. Not only do you need to remain within your total capacity limit, but also your age capacity limit. Please contact your licensor with any questions.

Supervision Training

Wright County will again be offering training on supervision. This will be an opportunity to review the rules on supervision and gain a clear understanding how to provide adequate supervision. Liability issues will be addressed as well as proactive measures to take to ensure proper supervision for all ages of children in your care.

Date: Thursday, May 8, 2008

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

Location: Wright County Government Center 10 2nd St NW-Buffalo, Room 120 A/B

Instructors: Becky Domjahn and Teresa Gallagher, licensors

Cost: \$15

To Register: Contact Tammy Romer, Wright County Human Services, at 763-682-7488 or 1-800-362-3667 ext. 7488

Ask the Licensors...

In future newsletters, we would like to dedicate a section to provider questions. Are there parts of the rule that you are not clear on? Are you hearing different things from other providers, food programs, etc? If you have a question that you would like addressed in an upcoming newsletter, please forward those to your licensor either via telephone or e-mail.

Safe Outdoor Play Reminders...

All Children MUST go outside, everyday, weather permitting. What is weather permitting? Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the provider to determine what is weather permitting on a day to day basis. In the new Wright County Child Care Provider Handbook, chapter 7, entitled “Outdoor Safety” includes a Wind Chill and Heat Index to help you determine when it is safe to be outdoors.

What does the Rule say about “safe outdoor play”?

9502.0425 Physical Environment

Subp 2 Outdoor play space

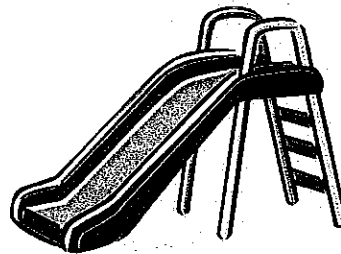
There must be an outdoor play space of at least 50 square feet per child in attendance, adjacent to the residence, for regular use, or a park, playground, or play space within 1,500 feet of the residence. On-site supervision must be provided by a caregiver for children of less than school age when play space is not adjacent to the residence. Enclosure may be required by the agency to provide protection from rail, traffic, water or machinery hazard. The area must be free of litter, rubbish, toxic materials, water hazards, machinery, unlocked vehicles, human or animal wastes, and sewage contaminants.

Licensors have the authority to require fences if it is felt that there are hazards in or near the play area. Most likely you were told at your initial visit if a fence was required. Because circumstances change; including road construction, new ponds or wet areas due to construction or machinery near the play area, your licensor may require a fence even if it was not originally required.

With the arrival of spring, provider and children will be spending more and more time outdoors. Here are some suggestions to ensure that you have a safe place for your children to explore and enjoy the fresh air.

- Is the yard/play area clean and free of garbage?
- Is the area free of machinery and unlocked vehicles?
- Is the area free of animal waste?
- If the area is fenced as a requirement of licensing, is the fence in good repair? Is it high enough to be a proper barrier from the hazards?
- Are you ensuring proper supervision while outdoors? (within sight or hearing of children preschool and younger, and capable of intervening to protect their health and safety)
- Are there any toxic plants or flowers in the play area?
- Is your play structure safe and installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations?


Have Fun and Enjoy the Great Outdoors!



Everyday Ways to Support Your Baby's and Toddler's Early Learning



Your baby is learning—about you, himself, and the world around him—from the moment he enters the world. The chart below gives you some ideas of the many ways you can support your child's early learning through your everyday activities.

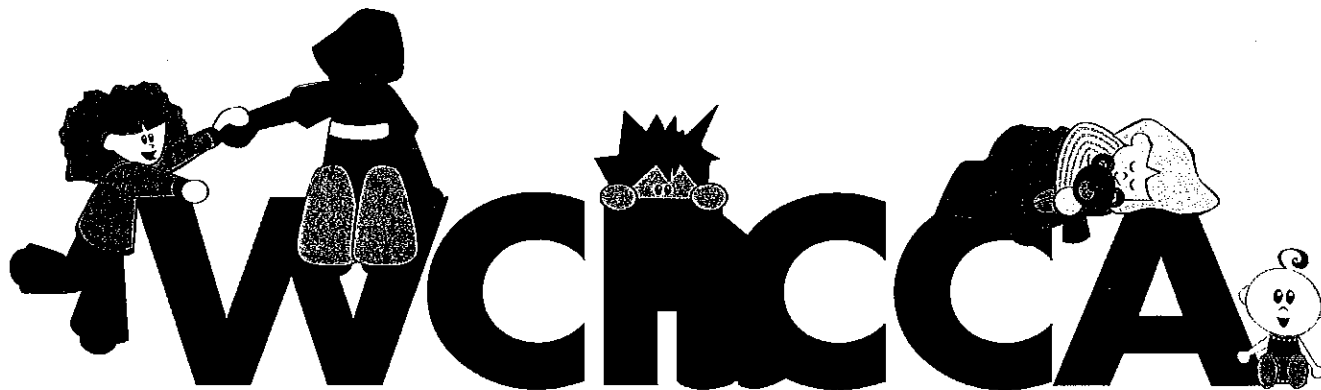
What's Going On With Your Baby or Toddler	What You Can Do
<p>Language and Communication Babies express their needs and feelings through sounds and cries, body movements, and facial expressions. Your baby will begin using words sometime around 1 year. By the time she is 3, she will be speaking in short (3-5 word) sentences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch and listen to see how your baby communicates what she is thinking and feeling. • Repeat the sounds and words your child uses and have back-and-forth conversations. • Read, sing, and tell stories. These are fun ways to help your child understand the meaning of new words and ideas. • Talk about what you do together—as you play, do errands, or visit friends and family.
<p>Thinking Skills Your child is learning how the world works by playing and exploring. Through play, babies and toddlers learn about how things work and how to be good problem-solvers.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child to explore toys in different ways—by touching, banging, stacking, shaking. • Turn everyday routines into playful learning moments. For example bath time is a chance to learn about ideas like <i>sinking/floating</i> and <i>wet/dry</i>. • Follow your child's interests. Children learn best through activities that excite them. • Ask your child questions that get him thinking as he nears age 3. For example, when reading a book together, ask <i>Why do you think the girl is laughing?</i>
<p>Self-Control Over the first 3 years, your child is beginning to develop self-control—the ability to manage his feelings and actions in acceptable ways. He is also learning to wait, share, and work out problems with his friends.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use words to help your child understand his feelings. <i>You are really mad because we have to leave the park.</i> • Give choices to older toddlers. <i>Would you like to read books before or after we brush teeth?</i> • Stay calm when your child is upset. This helps him feel safe and get back in control.
<p>Self-Confidence Your child is learning that she is a very special person; that she is loved, smart, fun, and capable. When children feel good about themselves, they are more confident and willing to take on new challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment on what your child does well. <i>You found the button that makes the bear pop up!</i> • Help your child be a good problem-solver. Give her the support she needs to be successful without completely solving the problem for her. • Give your child the chance to do things for herself like pouring milk from a small plastic pitcher. • Encourage your child to keep trying. <i>You are working so hard to get the ball in the basket. Sometimes it takes lots of tries!</i>

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Visit www.zerotothree.org/schoolreadiness for more information on early learning and healthy development.

This handout was developed by ZERO TO THREE and made possible by the generous support of **MetLife Foundation**



Wright County Family Child Care Association

www.wcfcca.org • info@wcfcca.org • (763) 463-5909

Wright County Family Child Care Association

We are a professional association for licensed family child care providers. We provide opportunities for growth, training, networking, and peer support to providers in Wright County.

Benefits of Membership Include...

- Increased Level of Professionalism
- Networking with Other Providers
- Quarterly Newsletters
- Trainings for FREE or at a Reduced Cost
- And More!

For more information visit www.wcfcca.org!

WCFCCA Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Alternate Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Business Name: _____

Website: _____

Circle One: 1 Year.....\$35 2 Years.....\$60 3 Years.....\$80

Please Mail Application form plus a check for total amount to:
WCFCCA • 10134 44th Court NE • St. Michael, MN 55376-8499



Rule Reminder on: Diapering

9502.0435 Sanitation and Health

Subpart 13 Diapers. Children in diapers shall be kept clean and dry. The following sanitary procedures must be used to reduce the spread of communicable disease:

- A. *An adequate supply of clean diapers must be available for each child and stored in a clean place inaccessible to children.*
- B. *Diapers and clothing must be changed when wet or soiled.*
- C. *For disposable diapers, a covered diaper disposal container must be located in the diaper changing area and lined with a disposable plastic bag. The container must be emptied when full, and at least daily.*
- D. *Diapering must not take place in the food preparation area. The diaper changing area must be covered with a smooth, nonabsorbent surface. If the surface is not disposable and is wet or soiled, it must be washed with soap and water to remove debris and then disinfected with a solution of at least two teaspoons of chlorine bleach to one quart water. If the surface is not soiled with feces or urine, then it must be disinfected with the solution of chlorine bleach and water after each diapering.*
- E. *Single service disposable wipes or freshly laundered cloths must be used for washing a soiled child. A child who has soiled or wet must be washed with a disposable wipe or a freshly laundered cloth before re-diapering.*

The rule specifies that the diapering area must be disinfected with bleach and water after EVERY diaper change. Wright County has approved some disinfectants to use as an alternate to bleach and water. Below is a list of approved disinfectants, with a variance. If you would like to use one of the products listed below, you must contact your licenser for a variance. If you have another product that you would like to use, contact your licenser for a checklist to determine if the product you would like to use is an appropriate substitute.

Lysol Disinfecting Wipes
Lysol Disinfecting Spray
Comet Disinfecting Spray
Clorox Disinfecting Spray- Fresh Scent
Sol-U-Guard
OdoBan
Betco AF315
Quat Stat
Basic G by Shakley
Enviro Care

