



# Wright County Licensing Newsletter August 2008

Looking for some new summer crafts and activities?

Try these websites...

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

<http://www.dltk-holidays.com/summer/index.html>

<http://www.makingfriends.com/summer.htm>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/summer/>

## **Carbon Monoxide Detector Requirement**

Effective 8-1-08, all existing homes must have an approved and operational carbon monoxide alarm installed within ten feet of each room lawfully used for sleeping. This would include within 10 feet of every room used for napping during childcare. Licensors will begin looking for CO detectors after 8-1-08. Enclosed please find information from the State Fire Marshal's office regarding this requirement. For more information, please refer to the Fire Marshal's website at: <http://www.fire.state.mn.us/> or to find the statute requiring the detectors, go to: <https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/?id=299F.51>

## **When Was the Last Time You Replaced Your Smoke Detectors?**

According to the National Fire Alarm Code 10.4.6: "Unless otherwise recommended by the manufacturer, single and multiple-station smoke alarms installed in one and two family dwellings shall be replaced when they fail to respond to operability tests, but shall not remain in service longer than 10 years from the date of manufacture."

The state Fire Marshal recommends that when you are replacing your detectors that you use a marker to note the year they were replaced on the underside of the detector. The licensing rule states that child care providers comply with Fire Code.

## **Annual Requirements**

Did you know that there are a number of items listed in the licensing rule and state fire code that are annual requirements for providers? With most providers having 2 year licenses, it is easy to miss some of the annual requirements. Below is a list of things to make sure that you are doing annually. If you have a drop in visit between your re-licensing visits, the licensor may ask that you show verification that you are keeping up with annual requirements.

- o Well water testing (9502.0445 subp1a)
- o Fire extinguisher serviced (9502.0425 subp 16 & international fire code 7.3.1.1.1)
- o Recall check on the crib inspection form (MN Statute 245A.146 subp 3)
- o Shaken Baby Syndrome video viewed (MN Statute 245A.1445)

## **New "Maltreatment of Minors Mandated Reporting Policy"**

Enclosed please find a new "Maltreatment of Minors Mandated Reporting Policy". This policy replaces your current "Child Care Program Reporting Notification" form. As of this date, each new family you enroll in your child care should be given this policy. As stated on the bottom of the first page, the form must be given to parents at the time of enrollment, and available upon request. You no longer need to keep a signed copy in your files. At the time of your re-licensing, licensors will ask to see that you have this policy available for distribution to new families, and upon request of current families. The policy is also available on our website.



## Wright County Human Services Child Care Licensing Update

I would like to inform you of a new addition to our licensing staff, Case Aide, Terri Aarvig. This is a new position which gives us additional staff in the area of licensing.

The new position offers us the opportunity for personal contact with new providers approximately six months after licensure. At that time Terri meets with the provider in a drop-in visit, checking the home regarding licensing standards and offering support and education to the provider. We know the licensing rules are complex, and that beginning the business of child care is a challenging experience. It is our hope these visits will be a positive learning experience for providers in the first year of licensure.

Another responsibility of this new position is to conduct off year and drop-in visits to licensed homes between the two years of licensure after the provider's first relicensure. A number of counties have had sufficient staff to conduct off year drop-in visits, but this is our agency's first opportunity to have the staff time available for this. Again this is a visit to review how the provider is following licensing standards and to offer any needed support and education.

Lastly, the position also includes conducting drop-in visits with providers when Correction Orders have been issued to assure compliance with the Correction Order. Please note that Correction Orders are to assure licensing standards are being met. Again, our common interest is the safety and well-being of the children in care.

Marian Elkerton, Supervisor  
Intake and Resource Unit

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### LICENSING UNIT

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#### Background Study

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**FAX#**                      **763-682-7701**

**Child Care Licensing Website:** [www.co.wright.mn.us/department/humanservices/daycare.asp](http://www.co.wright.mn.us/department/humanservices/daycare.asp)