



Wright County Licensing Newsletter January 2008

Looking for some new winter crafts and activities?

Try these websites...

www.dltk-holidays.com/winter/index.html

www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/winter

www.theideabox.com

www.daniellesplace.com/html/winter_crafts.html

Shaken Baby Syndrome Video

Wright County has a limited number of Shaken Baby Syndrome DVDs that can be given out to providers. They will be given out on a first come first serve basis, and licensors will be bringing them out at re-licensing visits. If you would like a DVD, please stop in to our office to pick one up. We are unable to mail the DVDs. This DVD meets the annual requirement for viewing a Shaken Baby Syndrome video.

Thank you to the Courage to Care Council for funding and to the Child Care Resource and Referral for producing the DVDs.

Recalls

Having trouble keeping up with all the toy and crib recalls?

Register with the Consumer Product Safety Commission to be notified by e-mail when there are new recalls! You can choose to be notified of all recalls, or only child related recalls. Follow the simple instructions below.

1. Log on to www.cpsc.gov
2. Click on "Sign up for email announcements".
3. Submit your email address.

Conditional, what does it mean?

Looking at your license, there may be areas of your home that are listed as "conditional", such as a garage, basement, etc. When a part of your home is conditional, it means that it either does not meet licensing standards (no egress window, furnace accessible, etc), or it is an area of your home that you choose not to use for child care, and have decided not to keep up with licensing standards. Remember, if an area is marked conditional, it **cannot** be used by children in care. This includes your own children, 10 and under, during daycare hours. If you would like to have the conditional status removed from an area of your home, call your licensor to have that area inspected.

Tax ID Number

Are you ready for tax season?

Are you uncomfortable giving out your Social Security Number to parents?


You may want to consider applying for an Employer Identification Number (EIN). You can apply on-line, over the phone, by fax or by mail. To apply go to <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/index.html> and click on Employer ID Numbers, or call the Business and Specialty Tax Line at 1-800-829-4933.

For more information on EIN go to www.redleafinstitute.com.

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>

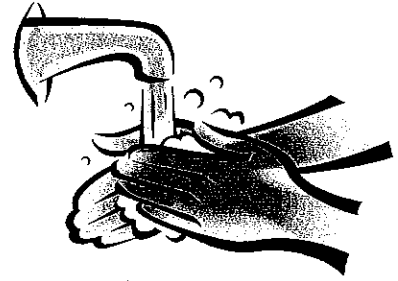
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Visit www.zerotothree.org/schoolreadiness for more information on early learning and healthy development.

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

Preventing the Spread of Germs During Cold and Flu Season



Hand Washing Reminders for Caregivers: When?

- ◆ After each diaper change
- ◆ After helping child with toileting
- ◆ After washing the diaper changing surface
- ◆ After wiping kids' noses
- ◆ Before food preparation

Children: When?

- ◆ After toileting
- ◆ After playing outside
- ◆ Before eating
- ◆ After eating
- ◆ After naptime

*Use soap & water, dried on paper towels (Hot water cannot be more than 120 degrees)

Activities to show kids the importance of hand washing from www.brainpopjr.com

Transmission

Put a little glitter or flour on some children's hands. Have them shake hands with other children, who should then shake hands with other children, and so on. After everyone has shaken hands with at least two people, ask the children if they have glitter or flour on them. Discuss how shaking hands can spread germs and brainstorm ways to avoid germs and the spread of germs.

Traveling Germs

Demonstrate for the children how germs can spread in the air. Take a little bit of flour and pretend to sneeze by blowing on it. Students can see where the flour spreads and understand the importance of covering their mouths when they sneeze. Then ask them what should happen after they sneeze. Show them the "germs" of the flour in your hand. Together with the children, brainstorm a list of times when people should wash their hands.

Coping with colds in child care

It is a fact of life that children will become sick, and it is not anyone's fault. There are ways, however, to reduce the number of colds in your home.

- ◆ Make sure children and adults practice good hand washing.
- ◆ Teach children to cough into their elbow rather than in their hands and away from people.
- ◆ Wipe noses with clean disposable tissues; dispose of tissues properly, wash hands after using.
- ◆ Routinely clean the environment; wash mouth toys daily.
- ◆ Don't share food, bottles, toothbrushes or toys that can be put in the mouth.
- ◆ Play outdoors often.
- ◆ Avoid contact with saliva.

Good resource for providers - "Information on Infectious Diseases in Child Care Settings and Schools" including fact sheets for each illness:

Go to <http://www.co.wright.mn.us/departments/humanservices/daycare.asp#otherinfo>

Then click on the website under "Information on Infectious Diseases in Child Care Settings and Schools"

LICENSING UNIT

<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Marian Elkerton	763-684-2331	marian.elkerton@co.wright.mn.us

Licensors & Case Aides

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Investigator

Lisa Gertken	763-682-8934	lisa.gertken@co.wright.mn.us
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Background Study

Nesa Black	763-682-7489	nesa.black@co.wright.mn.us
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FAX# 763-682-7701

Child Care Licensing Website: www.co.wright.mn.us/department/humanservices/daycare.asp

Wright County Human Services
Childcare Licensing
1004 Commercial Drive
Buffalo, MN 55313

Toys and Lead

What is lead and why is it dangerous?

Lead is a metal found in the earth, and it is toxic to humans if ingested. For years, lead was used in paint, gasoline, plumbing and many other items. Lead is still found in some kinds of pottery and painted furniture. But the most common source is lead-based paint found in houses built before 1978. Lead has more recently been found in some children's toys, jewelry and charms. When children swallow lead from painted surfaces or items containing lead, they can become poisoned.

Which toys have been recalled?

On August 2, 2007, Fisher-Price® recalled approximately 967,000 toys, including *Sesame Street*®, *Dora the Explorer*®, and other licensed characters. In addition, on August 14, 2007, Mattel® recalled approximately 253,000 toy *Sarge*® cars. On June 13, 2007, RC2 Corporation® recalled approximately 1.5 million *Thomas and Friends*® wooden railway toys. There also have been a number of smaller recalls for a variety of children's products this past year.

For a complete list of lead-related toy recalls, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Web site at www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/Recalls/. Other useful recall Web sites are the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Web site at www.cpsc.gov or the Federal Governments recall website at www.recall.gov.

If my child has one of these toys, does he or she need a lead test?

The best way to find out if your child has been exposed to lead is with a blood lead test. Parents should discuss the need for a blood lead test with their health care provider. Testing may be appropriate, especially if the child frequently chews on toys, puts toys in his or her mouth, or has frequent hand-to-mouth activity.

What about testing my child's toys for lead?

Many home lead test kits are not reliable enough to give consistent results according to the CPSC. Testing should only be done by a licensed lead inspector or risk assessor utilizing an X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analyzer. Another method would be taking the toy to an accredited laboratory for testing. However, the toy may be destroyed during the laboratory testing process. Contact MDH for a list of certified lead firms or accredited laboratories that test for lead.

What should be done with toys that have been recalled?

Children should not be allowed to play with recalled toys. Until the toys can be returned or destroyed as directed, put the toys in a place where children cannot find them. Because each recall is different, MDH recommends that you check the recall notice to learn how to return the toy for a refund or replacement (see the previously mentioned Web sites).

If there is any doubt about whether or not an item contains lead, it would be safer to dispose of that item – *"When in doubt, throw it out."*

Additional Questions?

For more information about lead, contact the MDH Lead Program at (651) 201-4620, visit our website at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh or write us at the address below.

If you require this document in another format, such as large print, Braille, or cassette tape, call:
(651) 201-5000 ♦ 1-800-657-3908
MDH TTY (651) 201-5797



Environmental Health
625 Robert Street North
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN, 55164-0975
(651) 201-4620
www.health.state.mn.us



Are you great at SUPERvision?

Definition: Minnesota Rules, part 9502.0315 Subp.29a. Supervision means a caregiver being **within sight or hearing** of an infant, toddler, or preschooler at all times so that the caregiver is **capable of intervening** to protect the health and safety of the child. For the school age child, it means a caregiver being available for assistance and care so that the child's health and safety is protected.

As licensed child care providers, the fact is you are held to higher supervision standards than you may view as community standards, or even standards with your own children.

Ask Yourself:

- ◆ Where am I in proximity to all children? If I need to go to a another level of the home, do I have an orderly method of bringing the children with me?
- ◆ Is there always an adult present? Do I ensure that teen helpers or my own teen children are not left unsupervised with children?
- ◆ Can I hear an infant or child in distress (not just crying) when they are napping in a different room? If not, do I have a baby monitor that I can use?
- ◆ If children under school age are outside, am I always outside with them and able to get there quickly enough to protect them from harm?
- ◆ When children are in a vehicle, is there always an adult present with them?
- ◆ Do school age children ever leave my property? If so, do I have signed parental permission forms? The Rule states that you must be available for assistance and care. Are children in groups of 2 or more? Can you see them?

If providers have any questions about whether they are providing adequate supervision, they should contact their licensing social worker.

There is a local 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, February 21, 2008

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

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

Instructors: Rebecca Domjahn and Teresa Gallagher, licensors

Cost: \$15

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