



# Licensing Link

## Professionalism in Social Media

"Worked all day with snotty nosed children. Wish parents would keep children home when they are sick and not bring them to me. Why even have children if you can't stay home with them?"

How do you feel when you read this "post?" Imagine if you were a parent and saw this on your child's teacher's Facebook page. In today's society, many people use some form of social media and as child care providers we must be mindful of what we send out into the cyber world because once it is out there, it is there for millions of people to see and it doesn't disappear. We sometimes fail to consider the impact of what we post online. (<http://www.scchildcare.org/> By: Melissa Heston)

As a provider that is licensed by Scott County it is important to maintain appropriate boundaries with children, families and colleagues when interacting online. As of January 1, 2015, over 50% of the complaints investigated by Scott County Licensors were related to data privacy.

Rule 9502.0345 Subp. 2 —Data Privacy: specifically states that "The agency, department, and the authorized agent shall have access to provider records on children in care to determine compliance with parts 9502.0315 to 9502.0445. The provider shall not disclose any records on children in care to any persons other than the parents of the child,

the agency, the department, the persons required by part 9502.0375, subpart 1, and medical or public safety persons if information is necessary to protect the health and safety of the child."

There are many things a provider can do to ensure that they keep professional boundaries through social media. For instance:

- A provider can ensure that everyone's privacy and confidentiality is maintained.
- A provider can consider separating personal and professional content online. That is, you might have a personal Facebook page and a professional one, using different versions of your name.

It is Scott County's hope that all



of our providers understand the importance of maintaining professional ethics in your postings. You do not want one momentary lapse in judgment to tarnish all the good work you have done in your professional life. So before you hit send, pause and ask yourself:

- Have I posted anything I would feel embarrassed about explaining to potential employers, current employers, families, children, and Scott County Licensing?
- Are there pictures I would be embarrassed to show my grandmother or my boss?
- Have I mentioned my job, boss, or co-workers?
- If I have, was it positive? Did I violate someone's confidence? Did I honor relationships?
- Is this a comment I would say directly to the person?

When using social media outlets, early childhood educators must use common sense and error on the side of caution. At one time or another many of us have sent an email or posted a comment or picture on a social media site that we have regretted. We must ensure that we are respectful to ourselves, co-workers, our employers, and the families and children we serve.

It is important to recognize that social media should not be used in ways that will reflect negatively on us as an early childhood professional or damage the trust we have built with our employer, co-workers and families. As an early childhood professional we need to hold ourselves to an extremely high level of accountability. (<http://www.scchildcare.org/> By: Melissa Heston)



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Spring 2015

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# What is Parent Aware?

Parent Aware is a local agency, while not affiliated with Scott County, that is supported by our licensing team.



"Parent Aware improves, supports and celebrates the strengths of child care and early education programs through Parent Aware Star Ratings. Interested in demonstrating your quality and commitment to children in your care? Use these resources to find out how you can volunteer for a Parent Aware Rating. Get started today.

## Steps to Earn a Star Rating:

1. Attend a Parent Aware Information Session and apply for participation in a January or July cohort.
2. Join, develop, and earn your step on the Career Lattice.
3. Review your program strengths and set a Star level goal with your coach.
4. Work with your coach to gather program documentation.
5. Submit your Quality Documentation Packet.
6. Receive your Star Rating.

\*For more information on how to begin this star rating process, feel free to contact Parent Aware directly."

## Send an Email:

[info@childcareawaremn.org](mailto:info@childcareawaremn.org)

Call toll-free: 1-888-291-9811

Web Site: <http://parentaware.org/>



# Reminders on Summer Time Play...

We have had many gorgeous days now where temperatures have gotten into the 70's which means that summer time is finally around the corner.

We would like to take this time to give you a few reminders on outdoor play.

- ◆ Make sure children have sunscreen to protect their skin from the sun exposure.



- ◆ Children should have protective clothing and hats since these are excellent barriers to ultraviolet rays.



- ◆ Keep young infants out of direct sunlight.
- ◆ On very hot days: try to avoid outdoor play during the peak-sun hours. (10A.M to 4P.M)



- ◆ Make sure children stay hydrated and drink lots of water.



- ◆ Use extra precaution and supervision when engaging in water play activities.



- ◆ Be aware of bugs such as mosquitos or ticks that might cause bad bites or even allergic reactions.



- ◆ Lastly, stayed informed on the weather so you can be prepared for what summer has to bring.

# Activity Ideas

## Activities to help children celebrate WHO WE ARE

The AMFCCL came up with great activities for the upcoming months/holidays which can help children celebrate "who we are."

**Arbor Day is April 26, 2015.** A fun idea would be to have the day care make a large family tree to put on their wall and have children bring in pictures of them and their family to put on the tree.

**April 29th is Puppetry Day.** Each child could make a hand puppet out of a lunch bag and have it look like someone in their family. Everyone can put on a little

puppet show with their characters.

**May 1st is Make a Book Day.** Have children make a book drawing what they enjoy about themselves.



**May 5 through 12th is National Family Week.** Have each child tell something about their family for show and tell. Ask them what their family's favorite food is, what they like to do together best, what movie do they like to watch together, etc.

**May 10th is Mother's Day.** Have children make a card to give to their mother or grandmother.

**June 14th is Family History Day.**

Have the children bring something from their family that was passed down or a story about one of their family members to share.

**June 21st is Father's Day.** Have the children make their father or grandfather a card.

**June 17th is Eat Your Vegetable Day.** Have each child draw their favorite vegetable and tell why they like it.

**\* Reminder:** When posting any photos of children or their families, providers must have written permission from the parents.

# Upcoming Training at Scott County

Most of you know that Scott County offers training for it's Child Care Providers. The most recent training schedule has been completed and posted for the remainder for the 2015 calendar year:

## SUID/AHT — 2 hours

- May 14
- June 11
- July 28
- August 10
- September 10
- October 5
- November 17
- December 10



**Developmentally Appropriate Behavior Guidance — 4 hours** (Must attend both sessions to receive credit):

- July 9 & 13
- September 22 & 24
- November 3 & 5

**Locations:** All trainings will be held at the Scott County Government Center

**Address:** 200 4th Ave. W.  
Shakopee, MN 55379

**Time:** 6:30PM — 8:30PM

\*Registrations will be accepted by mail, as there is a fee for the trainings.

Check or money order should be payable to Scott County Treasurer, and sent in with your registration form.

\*To print off the Scott County Training Policy and Registration Form, please visit our website:

<http://scpublic/LicensesPermits/ChildCare/ProviderInfo/Pages/UpcomingTrainings.aspx>

# Fire and Tornado Drills Reminder

Reminder: Spring is coming, which means severe weather is always a possibility. As part of your license, it is important to remember that both fire and tornado drills are required year-round not seasonally.



This time of year, it would be great to have conversations with the children in your care so that they are prepared during tornado season.

## Scott County Child Care Licensing



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