



LICENSING LINK

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE
FROM
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

The Following article is from thr DHS (Department of Human Services) in reference to "**SAFE SLEEP ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN A PRIORITY**".

The Minnesota Department of Human Services regards, ensuring children are safe while sleeping as a fundamental public concern. **Resolution of a recent temporary immediate suspension in which a two-year conditional license was put in place for a family child care provider due to concerns about safe sleep practices, demonstrates how serious the department is about safe sleep.**

The terms under which the provider was allowed to operate under the conditional license, after demonstrating both - an accurate understanding of and commitment to consistently comply with all safe sleep practices for infants in care, included following conditions:

- The provider will place all infants to sleep on their backs in cribs with tight-fitting sheets and no blankets or toys in the cribs.
- The provider will never place infants to sleep in infant seats.
- The provider must complete six hours additional training, as well as repeat training on reducing the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and Shaken Baby Syndrome during the conditional license period.
- The provider's overall capacity and the number of infants in care will be limited and no variances to age distribution or capacity will be granted during the conditional period.
- A copy of the Order of Conditional License must be posted in the family child care program and must be provided to parents of children in care.
- The provider must pay all fines.

This case clarifies the department's priorities on this important topic, while recognizing that child care providers share this commitment to ensuring children's safety and will continue to work with the department and all those concerned about this issue.



Scott County
Child Care Licensing

Winter January, 2013

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REMINDER - CRIB MUST MEET NEW FEDERAL SAFETY STANDARDS

Providers, this is just a reminder. If you are using a full size or non full size crib made of wood or metal, it must meet new federal standards. That means, effective December 28, 2012 all cribs that are used by or are accessible to any child in your care must either have a permanent marking on the crib showing that the date of manufacture was after June 28, 2011; or manufacturer documentation of compliance for each crib must be provided. Purchase receipts alone are not sufficient documentation of compliance. You cannot determine compliance by simply looking at a crib or by the condition of the crib. **If a crib was purchased before June 28, 2011 it is most likely that the crib would not meet new federal standards. In future, when you buy a new crib send in proof of compliance to your licensor.**

Please keep in mind that your own children not only count in your capacity during your child care hours, but also, all child care rules and statutes apply to them as well. This includes infant sleep space requirements. Your child's own crib must meet the new crib safety standards during daycare hours. This law applies to all infants whether they are your own children, grandchildren or your daycare children.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services has directed county licensing units to recommend a fine of \$200 for any substantiated infant sleep space violation. Violations regarding infant sleep space include:

- Not sleeping an infant in an approved crib or port-a-crib.
- Not having a tight-fitted crib sheet.
- Having pillows, quilts, comforters, sheepskin, pillow-like stuffed toys, or other soft products in the crib with sleeping infant.
- Not placing an infant on their back to sleep unless there is a signed parent directive.
- Any person involved in the care of an infant who has not completed SIDS or Shaken Baby Syndrome training prior to providing care.

P.S. Providers, send in the "Crib Compliance Documentation Form" to your licensor in case you have not sent it in yet. All providers were required to send this form to their licensor by December 28, 2012.

Thanks to Anoka County for the following article being shared:

WHERE DO TODDLERS & PRESCHOOLERS SLEEP IN YOUR CHILD CARE?

There has been a tremendous amount of information publicized about providing safe sleep space for infants. The Day Care Licensing Rule clearly states that all infants must sleep in an approved crib or port-a-crib/play-yard. But what happens when they turn one? How do you decide when to move a child from a port-a-crib to a mat, cot, or other sleep space for nap time?

Toddlers and preschoolers need safe sleep space as well. Mesh-sided pack-n-plays do have height and weight restrictions of approximately 35" (2'11") and 30 lbs. It's time to measure the children in your care. Get the yard stick and scale out to make sure that you are following the manufacturer's recommendations for this equipment. Too many toddlers and/or pre-schoolers have been observed napping in mesh cribs that are not truly safe. Child care centers transition toddlers out of cribs around the age of 16 months.

With the New Year here, this might be a good time to consider putting away some of those over-used pack-n-plays. Change is difficult, but it can be done with consistency and a lot of patience. To begin the transition, consider taking the mat out of the mesh crib and setting it on the floor for the child. The sleep surface is the same; you've just removed the sides. This may require you to spend more time in the nap room during this transition to keep the kids on their own sleep surface but they will adjust. Watching their peers nap on a cot or mat is also incentive. Just be patient and consistent during the process. Another benefit for you will result in less paperwork - fewer monthly crib checks and less documentation.

SCOTT COUNTY CHILD CARE LICENSING

OFFERS FREE TRAININGS

FREE TRAINING

FREE TRAINING

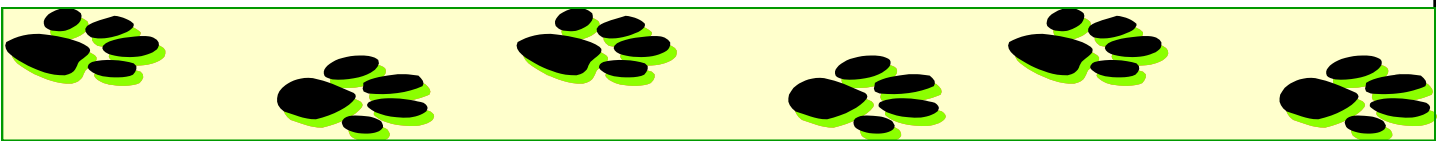
I Never Thought My Child Would Do That !!!!!

Due to the good response received from the providers who attended this training, Scott County Child Care Licensing is offering again this two hour free training class called "I Never Thought My Child Would Do That". This training will cover what happens if a daycare child makes allegations of sexual abuse against your own child. The training will review the investigation process and the impact it could cause on your business and your family. It will also include strategies on how to reduce the risks of this happening in your home. **The training will be held on Monday, February 25th, 2013 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Scott County Government Center** (signs will be posted to direct you to the room). To register **, please call 952-445-7751 and ask to speak to someone in licensing to register or send an email to Nancy Berndt at nberndt@co.scott.mn.us Class size is limited so register early.

Adult Supervision Required

Scott County is offering a free 2 hour training class on Supervision. Supervision issues are one of the most common complaints received by our agency. Failure to properly supervise children is also the basis for issuance of many correction orders or negative actions taken against licensed providers. Our goal is to reduce the number of incidents that result from inadequate or improper supervision, reinforce the effective practices being implemented and give you new strategies to supervise day care children. **The training will be held on Monday, March 25th, 2013 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Scott County Government Center.** (Signs will be posted to direct you to the room) To register **, please call 952-445-7751 and ask to speak to someone in licensing or send an email to Nancy Berndt at nberndt@co.scott.mn.us or to Jacque Froemke at jfroemke@co.scott.mn.us Class size is limited so register early.

**** P.S. If you have already attended either of these trainings in the past, we ask you to allow others an opportunity to take this training. One week prior to this class, we will send out an email if there is room available or you may call us then to find out if there is room.**



Rule Reminder:

9502.0425 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. Subp. 8.Temperature. A minimum temperature of 62 degrees Fahrenheit must be maintained in indoor areas used by children.

9502.0415 Activities and Equipment Subp.1 General activities. Day care activities must provide for the physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development of the child. The environment must facilitate the implementation of the activities. Activities must: **A.** be scheduled indoors and outdoors, weather permitting.

Several providers have raised the question about guidelines for weather conditions and children playing outside. The link below is on our county website with reasonable weather for outdoor play.

<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci/common/pdf/weatherwatch.pdf>

LOOKING FOR A TIGHT FITTED SHEET?

Sheets designed for use in mesh-sided, non-full sized cribs can be a problem when placed on the mattress. Because the mattresses for these cribs can be folded up for ease in traveling and storage, the mattresses can sometimes fold on itself, "accordion up", or pull away from the edges of the crib when a tightly fitted sheet is placed over the mattress. This issue is a **hazard** and the mattress is not considered a firm mattress. Modifications to the crib in order to make a sheet fit are not allowed. **Bottom line—if you cannot find a tight fitting sheet for the mattress, you cannot use that crib/port-a-crib/pack-n-play.**

The following are a few options that we have come across—some suggestions came from child care providers - that you may want to explore or search to figure out what option would work best for your port-a-crib. Every port-a-crib/mattresses are of different measurement. Simply click on the links.

Target:

Make sure to measure your mattress first as the sheet size varies. Most of the sheets sold in the store includes only one sheet per package.

www.target.com

http://www.target.com/c/playard-bedding-baby-nursery/-/N-5xtgt#?lnk=lnav_t_spc_1_9_0

WalMart:

Make sure to measure your mattress. Several of their prices include two sheets.

www.walmart.com

http://www.walmart.com/browse/bedding-decor/sheets/5427_524144_426652/?refineresult=true&browsein=true&catNavId=524144&facet=size%3APlayard&ic=48_0&path=0%3A5427%3A524144&povid=cat524144-env198829-moduleA062411-LinkLHN8Sheets

http://www.walmart.com/browse/bedding-decor/sheets/5427_524144_426652/?refineresult=true&browsein=true&catNavId=524144&facet=size%3AMini+%2F+Portable+Crib&ic=48_0&path=0%3A5427%3A524144&povid=cat524144-env198829-moduleA062411-LinkLHN8Sheets

Bobblers:

<http://bobbleroo.com/Playard-Sheets-c7/>

Our No-Slip Play-yard sheets are one of our most popular items and receive rave reviews from our customers as well as the press. Most other brands of play-yard sheets are difficult to use, made of inferior fabrics, and can also pose a safety hazard since they are easily dislodged by active children who can pull the play-yard sheet off the corners of the mattress/board. At the request of parents and daycares, we came up with a new design for a play-yard sheet that encompasses the entire play-yard mattress/board (think of a pillow sham or sandwich bag).

Our play-yard sheets are easy to use and won't pose a safety hazard since they cannot be pulled off the corners. Made out of quality 100% cotton flannel in a cute variety of prints, our play-yard sheets offer comfort, softness, and durability. Our No-Slip play-yard sheets fit a standard size play yard or travel yard (27" x 39") such as the GRACO Pack 'N Play or Century Fold 'n Go and will also fit standard size port-a-crib mattresses (2 inches thick).

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LOOKING FOR FITTED PORT-A-CRIB SHEET?

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C & M Custom Made Creations:

Here is the note from this company.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to help with the play yard sheets. We also do crib sheets but the custom play yard is a lost art apparently or everyone is rich and can buy brand new play yards. LOL.

If providers need different sizes they just need to send me the top measurement of the play yard. I can put elastic around the whole thing if they think it is needed but so many of the play yards have such a thin mattress that the elastic all the way around buckles the pad. Please let the providers know that we will take great care of them. Also, make sure we know they are from Scott County, MN and it will make it easier. Plus I am doing it a little cheaper for them.

Thank you again,

Ida

www.stores.ebay.com/C-M-Custom-Made-Creations



WHAT IS NEW ON THE SCOTT COUNTY CHILD CARE WEBSITE?

1. **Since July 2012, the new GIS map is available on Scott County Child Care Website.** This map is a tool designed to help parents find a licensed family child care provider close to their home or work. It shows the locations of the homes of Scott County licensed family child care providers along with provider's name, address, and phone number. To access this map, go to Scott County Child Care License website → under "Parent Information" click on "looking for licensed daycare providers."
2. **Noteworthy News and health Alerts** - new legislative updates, health related updates from the Minnesota Department of Health and any other information that might be helpful to our providers or parents will be found here under "Providers Information."
3. **Upcoming Trainings** - free trainings that are offered by Scott County Child Care Licensing will be found here under "Providers information." Scott County Child Care Licensing offers these trainings once a year either in the spring or in the fall. Providers, if you have not attended any of these trainings yet, we highly recommend it.

Visit the child care licensing website at www.co.scott.mn.us and you will find child care license under "Licenses and Permits."

MEENA'S CORNER

Choosing Safer Art Supplies For Your Daycare Children

Art and craft activities are among the most common activities found in home, educational and child care settings. What child doesn't love to draw, paint or color? Activities like painting, drawing, or working with clay allow young children to express themselves creatively. When doing arts and craft in your daycare home, it is important to use products and tools that are safe for young children.

Art and craft activities both may use materials that could pose a serious health threat to children and adults. Some arts and craft products contain solvents or materials that may expose children to toxic ingredients, fumes or dusts. It is important to keep in mind that art products are a mixture of chemicals that needed to be handled correctly to avoid poison exposures. When glues, paints, ink and other art supplies are handled correctly, children can safely enjoy art activities, however, young children often like to taste pretty, colorful art products that could lead to exposure of toxic ingredients. Exposure may occur through the skin, by inhalation, or by digestion. Anyone who offers art activities to young children needs to be aware of these potential hazards.



Many art materials have been designed and tested for adults. Unfortunately, children's bodies may be more sensitive to these substances, and they might use these materials in ways that adults don't like putting things in their mouths. Children tend to be active and curious. They have less well-developed fine motor skills and often do not understand the potential danger presented by an activity. As a result, children may spill supplies, or get them on themselves or others. This can increase the risk of harmful exposure. Children may put their fingers in their mouths, or suck their thumbs after having their hands in the materials. Children's bodies are not as strong or as fully developed as adult bodies. Therefore, they are more sensitive to poisonous substances, like lead, especially if eaten. Children also tend to breathe faster than adults and often breathe through their mouths instead of their noses. As a result, they might breathe in more of a poisonous substance than an adult would. Their air passages also tend to be narrower than adults which make them more sensitive to irritation by chemicals. Children have a much higher chance of toxic exposure than adults because they are unaware of the dangers, not as concerned with cleanliness and safety precautions as adults, and are often more curious and attracted to novel smells, sights, or sounds. Use age appropriate products. Select and use safe tools for craft projects keeping in mind the children's ability to handle tools.

In 2009, the nation's 57 poison control centers received more than 35,000 calls about exposures to art products, of these, more than 26,000 calls concerned children younger than 6. Although most exposures cause only minor effects, and very few required treatment by a doctor, it is still important to handle art supplies with care.



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MEENA'S CORNER

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It is not always easy to determine which arts and crafts tools and materials are safe for children. Some products contain toxic or harmful chemicals, yet their labels will have inadequate information about ingredients or precautions such as whether they are safe for children. The center for Occupational Hazards recommends that children under the age of twelve should not even use toxic art products.

Always read the packaging labels on any arts and crafts product or tool. Follow carefully the directions and precautions listed on the label. If the label does not have enough information for you to decide whether it is safe for use in daycare or not, contact the manufacturer. The companies phone number and address will be listed on the label. Ask the manufacturer about using the product with young children. Also request a copy of their Material Safety Data Sheet. This will give you specific information about flammability, toxicity, ingredients and use of the product. Non-toxic art and craft supplies intended for children are readily available. Read the labels and only purchase art and craft materials intended for children.

The American Association of Poison Control Centers recommends the following safety tips:

- Read the label carefully, and follow all instructions for safe use and disposal.
- Discard products that have passed their expiration dates.
- Keep food and drinks out of the art area.
- Wash up—skin, equipment and environment after use.
- Never use products to paint skin or decorate food unless the product is specifically labeled for that use.
- Store art products in their original containers so you can read the label or directions and store surplus materials away from children.
- Avoid materials with lead, or heavy metals.
- Avoid high temperature hot glue guns; use low-temperature models.
- Look for products that are clearly labeled with information about intended uses.
- Give only small amounts to minimize spills and mishaps.
- Supervise children closely to prevent unintended uses of art materials.
- Adults should mix powdered and extremely dusty materials.
- Wash hands after using materials. Do not use solvents to clean skin.
- Cover cuts and sores with bandages before using materials.
- Work surface should be hard and smooth for easy and through cleaning. Post emergency phone number by the phone.
- For the children's safety, ventilate the craft area. Consider using a fan to blow air out one window while fresh air is coming in another window. A fan simply moving air around a room, however, is not an effective method of ventilation because it allows vapors to disperse throughout your childcare facility.

TOXIC REMINDER

COLORFUL DETERGENT "PODS" poses a danger for children—Those bite-sized, brightly colored packets of concentrated liquid laundry detergent need to be kept out of the reach of small children, who often mistake them for candy, U.S. health officials warn.



Scott County
Child Care Licensing

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A woman is like a tea bag - you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water.

Remember, no one can make you feel inferior without your consent.

Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.



BY Eleanor Roosevelt