



October 2014

Dear Provider:

WINTER POOL SAFETY

With children back to school, leaves changing color and the warm memories of summertime fun fading, this is not usually the time of year that people think about swimming pools. In fact, pool maintenance and supervision during this time of the year is just as important as summertime.

Water or ice in pools, or on pool covers, pose a risk of drowning or injury. Competent supervision of children near and around pools and water hazards is important no matter the season.

WHAT IS AN EXIT INTERVIEW?

The inspection of your program by an OCFS representative offers valuable feedback and documentation of the status and compliance of your registration. The inspector will share initial findings and respond to questions and technical assistance requests from you prior to leaving the program in what is called an EXIT INTERVIEW.

THINKING OF RE-TAKING AN APPROVED ONLINE COURSE...



Training credit will be only awarded the **first** time that a specific online course is completed within any two year training period. Child day care employees cannot receive credit toward their required training hours by completing the same online training more than once within a two-year period. The training website will still allow users to log in and review completed trainings, enabling program staff to refresh their recollection of previously learned material.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE DCC/SACC REGULATIONS?

The high volume of public comments received for the proposed Day Care Center/School Age Child Care regulations has resulted in a longer review than anticipated. Your valued comments are being individually reviewed. Keep checking the OCFS website for updates and news on the regulation revision.

STAFF BACKGROUND CHECKS

Under the new regulations for Family Day Care and Group Family Day Care, programs must have a medical statement and TB testing for all caregivers PRIOR to them working with child care children. In addition, staff may not be left alone unsupervised with child care children until their background checks are completed and they have been cleared and approved by the Office.

EWV! ICK! YUCK!

DO CHILDREN WITH HEAD LICE HAVE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE GROUP? The answer is “No.” Head lice are not a health hazard or a sign of poor hygiene and, in contrast to body lice, are not responsible for the spread of any disease.” [American Academy of Pediatrics]

Lice do not care whether hair is short, long, clean or dirty. They do not fly or jump. According to medical professionals, children do not have to be sent home. If your program has a policy different than this, you may wish to re-consider. Your program can simply avoid any activities involving head-to-head contact and the child’s parent can be referred for treatment at the end of the day. Once the affected children have received the treatment recommended by the child’s health care professional, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that they can return to child care. For updated information, please visit: <http://www.healthychildren.org/English/news/Pages/AAP-Offers-Updated-Guidance-on-Treating-Head-Lice.aspx>.

COLD & FLU SEASON



The New York State Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control recommend that all people six months of age and older get vaccinated against seasonal influenza. Does this mean that parents MUST get their child a flu vaccine? No. However, it is required that schools/child-care facilities post the educational information so parents see it. A copy is included in this letter. The seasonal flu guide for parents and additional resources, in several languages, may be found at:

http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/childhood_adolescent/

You may have recently heard about enterovirus-D68 (EV-D68) in the news. To protect yourself and others from the virus as you would any other respiratory infection:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid kissing, hugging, and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.

DID YOU KNOW..?



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have a very helpful tool that can be utilized to assist in determining what vaccines are required and when they are due based on a child’s birthdate.

You can find this at: http://www2a.cdc.gov/nip/kidstuff/newscheduler_le/

AM I IN COMPLIANCE?



Evacuation drills with staff and child care children must be conducted at least monthly during hours of operation. A record of each drill is required to be on file at the program and is subject to review during inspections. For more information about what is required in your program, please refer to the regulations and contact your regional/borough office with any questions.

BE A ROLE MODEL




Try offering a variety of healthy fruits and vegetables with meals and snacks. How about sliced avocado or star fruit? By introducing children to a new fruit or vegetable in day care, not only are you expanding their horizons, but possibly that of their parents, too. Be a role model, pay it forward! The *Healthy Beverages in Childcare* training, found on the PDP website, is an example of OCFS partnering with the NYS Department of Health in its **Obesity Prevention** initiative. Remember: Always alert parents of any new or additional

foods children will be served just in case allergies exist! For more nutrition resources, with brochures in several languages, please visit: http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/nutrition/resources/together_we_can.htm.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS



- Look for the  symbol on the website to insure you are using the correct form. Revised forms have been created to reflect new Family Day Care and Group Family Day Care regulations that went into effect on May 1, 2014.
- OWNERS of **MULTIPLE PROGRAMS** have until **May 1, 2015** to complete mandatory training on the management and administration of multiple child day care sites. You may reserve a training slot by calling toll free at 1.800.295.9616. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/>.

PLEASE NOTE: On-site providers who are not also OWNERS/OPERATORS cannot take this course.

- Plan accordingly to insure completion of **MIDPOINT TRAINING** requirements. Documentation must be submitted to your licensor or registrar to insure compliance every two years and is subject to review at inspection.
- FDC and GFDC Providers: Have you submitted three references and a medical statement for your SUBSTITUTES to be approved? This new requirement is effective as of May 1, 2014.
- Completed STAFF EXCLUSION LIST (**SEL**) check request forms from Family Day Care, Group Family Day Care and Small Day Care Center programs should be returned to the their licensor/registrar for processing. Providers of these programs **SHOULD NOT FAX THE FORM DIRECTLY TO THE JUSTICE CENTER.**
- STAY TUNED... for the OCFS website re-design. Promising to be provider friendly with all you ever wanted to know about child care services and MORE! Lots of work is going on behind the scenes to make it easier for you to manage TRAINING requirements, with resources literally at your fingertips.

Have a healthy and fun snack, craft idea or creative activity to share? Your idea may be included in a future Dear Provider letter. Entries for consideration may be submitted to: Cynthia.Gentile@ocfs.ny.gov.

HEALTHY RECIPES: APPLE SMILES



You will need:

- mini marshmallows
- apples (with red skins preferably)
- peanut butter*

* Peanut Allergy? Try one of these substitutions: hummus, honey, marshmallow cream, caramel or fudge sauce

1. Cut and quarter an apple.
2. Cut each quarter into slices of desired thickness (depending on how big you want the lips)
3. Spread peanut butter (or *substitution) on one side of the apple wedge. Place marshmallow "teeth" on top.
4. Spread peanut butter (or *substitution) on an "upper lip" slice and place on top of the row of marshmallows.
5. Enjoy!

For questions about any items in this letter, please contact your licensor or registrar. Wishing you a colorful autumn and a safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janice Molnar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Janice" being more prominent than the last name "Molnar".

Janice M. Molnar Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Care Services

Si necesita leer esta carta en español, visite el portal de la División de Servicios de Cuidado Infantil en <http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/letters.asp>. Si no tiene acceso a la Red o Internet, contacte al encargado de licencias o registros para recibir ayuda.