



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



CHILD CARE LICENSURE INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

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Announcements of Interest

1. In an effort to better serve child care providers, the Child Care Licensure Division would like to extend an invitation to contact us (your licensing official or the Central Office) for assistance in setting up your center, solving conflicts, providing technical assistance or simply to answer questions. In addition, an information package and the *Director's Orientation* presentations are available free of charge to assist child care providers in running a center more efficiently. Thank you for all you do in caring for Mississippi's children!
2. The Child Care Advisory Council currently has one (1) seat available. Interested parties should contact Festus Simkins, Bureau Director of Professional and Child Care Licensure at 601-364-7360 for further information.
3. Anissa Pace, HPSS, (District IX licensing official) and Josie McCoy, HPSS, (Region 3 Trainer) have been temporarily relocated. Send all correspondence to:


Coastal Plains Public Health District IX
P O Box 3749
Gulfport, MS 39505
Phone – 228-831-5151
Fax – 228-831-5383
4. In an effort to keep up with growing technology, your licensing officials are now asking you to submit your center's e-mail address. This will assist the Department to keep you as up-to-date as possible with information regarding product safety recalls, training sessions and other child care related information.
5. The Mississippi Department of Human Services has established a new mechanism to report suspected abuse and neglect called the Mississippi Centralized Intake. This new intake mechanism was created to ensure consistent reporting and screening processes, prompt response times, and accurate data collection of child maltreatment reports. There are two ways in which to report abuse/neglect: call 1-800-222-8000 or report online at www.msabusehotline.mdhs.ms.gov.
6. The Staff Development Trainer Agreement has been revised to allow trainers to provide six (6) or more contact hours per training day or conference.
7. We are asking licensed child care providers to provide a copy of the following letter to each parent of the children who attend your facility. The letter is intended to provide nutrition information to parents and will help parents understand the changes to the nutritional guidelines that child care providers must follow. The Department also recommends that you provide a copy of the letter to your staff and appreciates your help in helping us educate parents and children about the benefits of good nutrition.



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

July 1, 2010 (change date as appropriate)

Dear Parents:

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) has recently issued new nutrition guidelines for child care centers in our state. We would like to make you aware of the changes that will occur with our nutrition and meal service, as we come into compliance with the new guidelines within the next year. Changes will include:

- All infant bottles must come into our facility premixed. No powder formula will be mixed at the child care center.
- Infant cereal must be premixed to meet the needs of each specific infant.
- Children under 2 years of age will receive whole milk.
- At the age of 2 years, children in our facility will be switched to fat-free or low-fat milk. Children two years of age or older do not need the extra fat present in whole milk.
- We will be including more fruits and vegetables in our meals. We ask that you discuss the foods that we are introducing and encourage your child to try all foods.
- We will be adding more whole grain products such as wheat bread instead of white bread.
- We will be encouraging our children to drink water with meals and snack times.
- Depending upon the how long your child is in our center, he or she may receive a small snack late in the day.

We recognize that Mississippi has the highest obesity rates for adults and children in the United States. To correct this problem all of us must start making changes regarding what we feed our babies and toddlers. Our facility will be serving healthier meals and snack items to our children, and we hope that you will consider doing this at home as well.

For more information on nutrition, contact the Mississippi State Department of Health at: 1-866-HLTHY4U (1-866-458-4948) or visit our website at: www.HealthyMS.com.

MEMO ON TRANSPORTATION

In the past several months, the child care department has both witnessed and received reports of inappropriate transportation of children taking place on child care facility vans. One of the main areas of non-compliance is the issue of having a monitor on the vehicle at all times. Section 114.04 (1) of the *Regulations Governing Licensure of Child Care Facilities* states, “On vehicles with a GVWR of less than 10,000 lbs, the staff-to-child ratio shall be maintained at all times. The driver of the vehicle shall not be counted as a caregiver while transporting the children.”

For all facilities that operate *under a preschool license* (regardless if the children being transported are preschool or school age), there must be a monitor on the vehicle. Depending on the age of the child, more than one monitor may be needed to comply with staff-to-child ratio. ***The driver of the vehicle may not be counted in the ratio.***

For facilities that operate *strictly as a school age facility*, the driver may count in the ratio. If one adult is all that is needed to comply with ratio, a monitor is not needed. Also, please use proper documentation to ensure that all children are accounted for at all times.

Other guidelines concerning transportation are as follows:

- All drivers must be appropriately licensed
- All vehicles must have current safety inspection stickers, licenses, and registrations
- Insurance must adequately cover the transportation of children
- Children must board or leave the vehicle from the curb-side of the street and/or are safely accompanied to their destinations
- A parent must be present if the child is delivered home
- No vehicle shall be occupied by more individuals than its rated capacity
- No children shall be transported in the front seat of vehicles equipped with passenger-side air bags.
- All children must be properly restrained—*at no time should more than one child be buckled into the same seat belt*

Please note the following is to explain further the issue of properly restraining a child. Governor Haley Barbour signed two (2) amendments to Mississippi’s seat belt law. These amendments, which became effective July 1, 2008, are as follows:

SECTION 1. *Section 63-7-301, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:*

(a) Every person transporting a child under the age of four (4) years in a passenger motor vehicle, and operated on a public roadway, street or highway within this state, shall provide for the protection of the child by properly using a child passenger restraint device or system meeting applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards.

(b) Every person transporting a child in a passenger motor vehicle operated on a public roadway, street or highway within this state, shall provide for the protection of the child by properly using a belt positioning booster seat system meeting applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards if the child is at least four (4) years of age, but less than seven (7) years of age and measures less than four (4) feet nine (9) inches in height or weighs less than sixty-five (65) pounds.

(c) If more than two (2) children who are required under subsection (1) of this section to use a booster seat are being transported in a vehicle at one time, and the vehicle only has two (2) lap and shoulder belts in the rear seat, then only the two (2) children sitting in the seats with the lap and shoulder belts are required to use a belt positioning booster seat system and safety belt, and any other children may be secured with a safety seat lap belt only.

To summarize, all children under the age of four years old must be transported in a child restraint device. Children between the ages of four and seven must also be transported in a child restraint device if they weigh less than 65 pounds or they are less than 4’9” in height.

Please pay careful attention to these guidelines when transporting your children. Be advised that your licensing officials will be devoting extra time and attention to monitor and ensure that all children are being safely transported. If you have any questions, feel free to call your local licensing official or the Child Care Licensure Division offices at 601-364-2827. Thank you for your cooperation and continued dedication to the children in your community.

Fun in the Sun or Play in the Shade?

Summer is here, and with it, the desire of children to go outside and play, but without adequate shade, the danger increases from injury to include future cancer. The effects of sunburn can linger long after the fun in the sun has ended. In Mississippi, summer temperatures can reach sizzling heights for longer periods during the year, therefore, shade is not a luxury; it is a necessity.



Playground safety includes more than well-maintained playground equipment to reduce injury; it also includes protecting our children from sun exposure. The Consumer Products Safety Commission's Guideline to Public Playground Safety addressed this issue back in 1981 and has since revised guidelines to include the results of tests that confirm the vulnerability of children under the age of five exposed to the UV rays of natural sunlight. "Skin cancer is a real concern. But at the same time kids have a genuine need for play and for their health it is important to develop active lifestyles at an early age" (USA Shade & Fabric Structures, 2009).

In addition to the dangers imposed by sun exposure to delicate childhood skin, there is the added danger of heated playground equipment and surfacing that can lead to severe burns. Shade structures over high intensity playground equipment can help reduce the risk of burns to both children and adults.

According to the American Academy of Dermatology, "Outdoor activities especially during summer result in a significant amount of sun exposure. Research indicates that most people receive as much as 80 percent of their total lifetime sun exposure during their first 18 years. As few as two severe sunburns during childhood may double the risk of developing Melanoma, one of the deadliest forms of cancer, later in life." With this information in mind, it is important that child care centers ensure that all children are well screened from sun exposure, to include shade and sunscreen. Below are some skin cancer facts that emphasize the importance of proper shade on the playground:

- More than 1 million cases of skin cancer are diagnosed in the U.S. every year,
- Current estimates are that 1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime,
- One American dies of melanoma every 61 minutes. In 2009, 8,650 deaths will be attributed to melanoma – 5,550 men and 3,100 women,
- Approximately 75 % of skin cancer deaths are from melanoma,
- In 2004, the total direct cost associated with the treatment for non-melanoma skin cancer was \$1.5 billion
- Melanoma in individuals 10-39 years old is highly curable with five-year survival rates exceeding 90 %.

With these statistics in mind, let's make it our mission to protect our children from sun exposure and sunburn this summer and skin cancer later in life!

CHILD CARE FACILITY LEAD TESTING

Lead Testing For Playground Soil – Procedure

A test for lead in the playground soil is required once for all facilities.

- Collect small samples from 3 or 4 locations around the playground with a clean plastic spoon and combine them in a *plastic bucket*. (Metal buckets can affect the results.)
- Mix samples thoroughly in the bucket.
- Place approximately one (1) pint of soil in a plastic bag. (Ziploc)
- **If your building was constructed before 1965**, it is recommended that a composite soil sample (not more than five (5) samples) also be collected from the roof drip line, especially in areas where people walk. Before taking these samples, remove any old paint chips present. (Removing old paint chips is recommended even if no samples are taken in this area.)

*We currently have information and instructions for the two testing facilities listed below. You may choose either option or use another **certified** testing facility.*

Ms State Chemical Lab

Ship the soil sample, along with return name, address, and telephone number to:

Ms State Chemical Lab
Box CR
Ms State, MS 39762

Please note: The Chemical Lab will run the sample and send the results back to the child care facility. The cost is \$45 per sample. Send your payment (check or money order) in with your sample or you may pay by credit card. **Contact Helen Breland at 662-325-3428 for more information.**

EHS/BTS Laboratories

Web site is www.btslabs.com Phone number is 1-800-347-4010. Fax number is 804-275-4907. Open 8-5 Eastern Time.

Address: BTS Laboratories, 7467 Whitepine Road, Richmond, VA 23237

Price is \$8.00 for a soil sample with a 3-day turnaround time, \$9.00 for a 2-day turnaround time and \$25.00 for next day (if sample is mailed to the lab overnight.) Contact company to obtain instructions.

Lead Testing For Facility

A test for lead in the facility is required *only for buildings constructed before 1965*.

- Document the year your facility was constructed. If it was built **before 1965**, you must have a **lead hazard screen** or **lead-based paint risk assessment** done by an individual or company certified as a *Risk Assessor* by the Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality.
- For a current list of these individuals or companies, please contact Virginia Rickels at (601) 961-5777. You may also contact her by email at virginia_rickels@deq.state.ms.us.

Hurricane Preparedness: Are You Ready!

Hurricane season officially runs from June 1 to November 30. Governor Haley Barbour, Mississippi Emergency Management Executive Director Mike Womack, and the National Weather Service want to make sure you are prepared. Whether you live near the Gulf Coast or well inland, you should review preparedness plans and be ready for the season.

Personal Hurricane plans for your home or business should be designed so you can take quick action when a storm is approaching. The most important thing you need to do is have a plan based on your level of vulnerability. If you live, or your business is in an evacuation zone, in a flood prone zone, or in mobile home, you need to evacuate. If you live inland away from the coast in a well built home or business, you may be better off boarding up and staying put. Whatever you decide, a plan will allow you to make quick decisions for questions like: Where will I go if I evacuate? How will I get there? When will I leave? What do I need to take with me? How can I Prepare my home or business for the storm? What Items do I need to have a disaster supply kit? According to the Mississippi Hurricane Preparedness Guide, residents and business owners should have enough supplies to sustain their families for three days (72hours) after a hurricane makes landfall. Why? Because it could take that long for public assistance to reach you because of extensive damage,

Here are some tips to help you become prepared:

1. Develop a Communications plan (How will you get in touch with parents and family members?)
2. Develop an Evacuation Plan (Where will you go and how will you get there?)
3. Monitor radios, TV, NOAA Weather Radios and the internet for official bulletins of storm progress
4. Fuel and service all vehicles
5. Arrange for pet care
6. Complete Preparations such as putting up storm shutters, boarding windows, and securing items
7. Stock emergency kit with the following suggested items:
 - a. Sanitary Supplies
 - b. Plastic Dishes and eating utensils
 - c. Non-Perishable food for at least 3 days
 - d. Bottled water
 - e. Flashlights with extra batteries
 - f. Weather radio
 - g. Blankets and towels
 - h. Emergency generator

The following are a list of important contact listing to agencies with whom you may contact with any questions you may have:

1. *Mississippi Emergency Management Agency* 1-866-519-MEMA (6362)
2. *National Weather Service* 601-965-4638 (Jackson)
3. *MDOT Traffic Hotline* 1-866-521-6368
4. *FEMA* www.fema.gov
5. *Governor Barbour* www.governorbarbour.com
6. *Local Police Department* 911