



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

DIVISION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Phone: 919.662.4499 Fax: 919.661.4845 Courier Number: 56-20-17



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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

Deborah J. Cassidy, Director

MEMORANDUM

To: NC Child Care Providers
From: Deb Cassidy, Director
Date: August 31, 2010
Re: Updates and important information from the Division of Child Development

Greetings! This packet of information is being sent to you for the purpose of keeping all of the child care community up to date on recent changes and developments in our system. We hope that you find the information helpful, and we are always only a phone call or email away if you have any questions!

Child Care Licensing Rule Change

Over the last year the North Carolina Child Care Commission has been working on rulemaking in the areas of children's health and nutrition, enriching outdoor activities and quality school-age care, based on research reviewed on outdoor learning environments, quality activities for school-age care, and preventing obesity in young children. The majority of these rules became effective July 1, 2010, with the exception of a few that carried over to August 1, 2010. Included in your packet is a summary of the rule changes, as well as the actual text that has been changed in the rulebook; please refer to the rulebook for complete rule text. It is available online at www.ncchildcare.net

Also included in your packet is a color version of the Child Care Weather Watch chart. One of the rule changes included new language to better define "weather permitting". The Weather Watch chart is referenced in the revised rule, so we wanted to make sure that you all had a hard copy of the chart in color. The chart can also be accessed online at:

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

Legislative Update

As you all know, the 2010 session of the General Assembly adjourned in July following a whirlwind of activity and a record-breaking speed of decision-making! Enclosed in your packet is a brief description of the changes to the Child Care Law and other legislation from the 2010 legislative session that affects our work at the Division of Child Development (DCD) and your work at your child care program. For example, legislation passed that will lead to positive changes to the nutrition requirements in child care programs. This coming year, the Child Care Commission is charged with reviewing our nutrition standards and considering recommendations that would require programs to serve healthier foods to children in an effort to address the rising childhood obesity rates that we have in our state.

Early Educator Certification

In addition, we also have a new law that requires teachers and family child care home providers to obtain their Early Educator Certification through the Institute for Child Development Professionals. This certification is based solely on higher education attainment. Included in your packet is a yellow handout with more information about Early Educator Certification and how you can apply to become certified.

At this time, the Division is offering certification FREE OF CHARGE through September 30, 2010. Eligible applicants must work in a licensed program as a staff member that is counted in staff/child ratio. DCD will continue to provide resources to help cover the cost of certification between October 1 and December 31, 2010. During this time, certification will cost only \$25. The \$50 fee will be applicable as of January 1, 2011.

Go to <http://ncicdp.org/> to learn more. This change is especially exciting because it represents another step toward increased pride and professionalism in the early childhood workforce!



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More at Four Program Oversight in Private Child Care Settings

Another change in legislation will require that DCD licensing consultants monitor More at Four classrooms in private child care programs. DCD will work with the Office of Early Learning in the coming months to plan for staff training and implementation.

Live Scan Fingerprinting Option

North Carolina law and rule require that all licensed and regulated child care providers and household members over the age of 15 years old complete a criminal background check as part of the employment/licensing/approval process. Child care providers can now choose between two options: the traditional “ink and paper” method, or the Live Scan method. The Live Scan method involves taking digital fingerprint impressions and transmitting those impressions directly to the SBI/FBI for processing without generating a fingerprint card. For more information, please review the orange handout in your packet. We are pleased to be able to offer you this new technology!

Pest Control

Finally, we have included a helpful resource about pest control and the toxic pesticides in bug sprays and weed killers that can be dangerous for young children. This resource is from Toxic Free NC which offers some safe alternatives for pest control that work just as well as the sprays, but often at a fraction of the cost. Find out more at www.ToxicFreeNC.org

Licensing Fees

Pursuant to NC General Statute 110-90(1a) some child care facilities are responsible for paying an annual license fee. The license fee for 2010 will be invoiced in mid-October with payment due in November. The license fee is based on the licensed capacity of facilities active as of October 1, 2010. Below is a breakdown of license fees:

Licensed Capacity	Fee
12 or fewer children	\$52.00
13-50 children	\$187.00
51-100 children	\$375.00
101 or more children	\$600.00

So, as you can see, there is a lot going on in the world of child care in North Carolina! I am excited by all of the possibilities and I hope that you will join me in regarding this time of change as movement in the right direction to support child care quality. Together we are making a difference!

See the attached documents for more details, and visit our website often for updated information – www.ncchildcare.net Please feel free to call your child care consultant or the Division at 919-662-4499 or 1-800-859-0829 (in-state call only) if you have questions or concerns.

Thanks again for all that you do for the children and families in North Carolina!

Attachments

DC/JK

- cc: Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies
- Division of Social Services Child Care Coordinators
- NC Child Care Commission Members
- NC Community College System
- NC Smart Start Partnerships
- More At Four State Office
- Division of Child Development Staff