

CCL E-News & E-Notes

SC Department of Social Services
Child Care Licensing and Regulatory Services
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What's New?

Last year, the State of South Carolina began moving away from ink-rolled fingerprints to scanned prints using the Live Scan process. State agencies that are now using this technology include the Department of Insurance; SC Supreme Court; Department of Education; Department of Social Services; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; and Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Since the first letter about Live Scan was mailed from Child Care Licensing last July, several improvements and changes have been made. Live Scan initially had 5 permanent sites. Now they have 10 mobile sites as well. Listed below are the cities where the Live Scan sites are located. More specific information including the addresses, dates, and times of the Live Scan locations is available by clicking on "Locations" at the L-1 website - www.ibtfingerprint.com.

***Permanent Sites:** Columbia, Florence, Greenville, Charleston, and Rock Hill*

***Mobile Sites:** Aiken, Anderson, Bluffton, Chesterfield, Conway, Gaffney, Georgetown, Greenwood, Orangeburg, and Sumter*

The company that South Carolina contracted to process scanned

fingerprints was initially named IBT (Integrated Biometric Technologies). Their name is now L-1 Identity Solutions. The web address used to schedule a Live Scan appointment remains the same: www.ibtfingerprint.com, but visitors to the website will now see the new name. Because of the name change, checks should now be made payable to L-1 Enrollment Services.

As of December 31, 2008, all child care providers should be using Live Scan instead of ink-rolled prints. Staff members from the DSS Office of Investigations and Licensing worked together with SLED and IBT/L-1 to get mobile sites into outlying parts of the state to make this process more convenient for child care providers. Plans are being made to expand the number of visits per month to these sites and to add additional sites. As demand dictates, some of the mobile sites will evolve into permanent sites.

Finally, Licensing offers the following helpful hints to make the Live Scan process work more efficiently:

- When scheduling an appointment to have a Household Member fingerprinted, Family and Group providers should choose "Volunteer" for the fingerprint reason.
- Please use your Live Scan ID number to make appointments and not your license, approval, or registration number.
- The Live Scan number appears two ways - **both ways work to schedule appointments**. One starts with "CC" and the other one just has numbers. If you know your "CC" number, please use it. If you need to get your "CC" number, please call your Regional Licensing Office.

As Licensing works with SLED and other state agencies, we continue to discover ways to make the process more efficient and convenient. After much skepticism when Live Scan began, we have received an increasing number of positive responses about the quick return of results, the accuracy of the prints, and the continued efforts to make the process even more streamlined.

Child Care Licensing issued 477 new permits in 2008:

**149 Centers
9 Group Homes
319 Family Homes**

Important Information From DHEC

To fight the spread of the flu virus:

- Wash your hands thoroughly and often.
- Cover your cough with your sleeve, not your hand.
- Stay home if you're sick.
- Stay away from people who are sick.
- Eat a healthy diet and get plenty of rest.

In light of recent concerns over the flu, DHEC has established a very informative website at: www.scdhec.gov/flu/swine-flu.htm

A Child Care and Preschool Influenza Planning Checklist is also available online at: www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/school/preschool.html

Health and Safety: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is the leading cause of death for infants between 1 month and 12 months of age according to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). SIDS most often affects babies that are 2-4 months old, but babies up to one year of age could possibly die from SIDS.

Approximately 1 in 5 SIDS deaths occur while an infant is in the care of someone other than the parent. One common reason for this is called "unaccustomed tummy sleeping." When babies sleep on their backs at home, they are 18 times more likely to die from SIDS if they are placed on their tummies to sleep in another environment. Parents are encouraged to talk to anyone who cares for their baby about placing the baby on his/her back to sleep. DSS Regulation 114-509 A(5)(1) states that "infants shall be placed on their backs to sleep unless the parent provides a note from a physician specifying otherwise."

Child care providers are urged to create and use a written safe sleep policy to reduce the risk of SIDS. The *Caring for our Children National Health and Safety Performance Standards* outlines such a policy. Providers can download a copy from the Internet at <http://nrc.uchsc.edu/SPINOFF/SIDS/SIDS.htm>. The AAP recommends that a safe sleep policy should include the following information:

- Babies should always sleep on their backs
- A physician's note is required for babies who do not sleep on their backs. The note should also include how the child should be placed to sleep.
- Cribs should be safety approved by the Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Toys, stuffed animals, and extra bedding are not allowed in the cribs
- If blankets are used in cribs, clear procedures should be included on their placement and how they are tucked in
- Only 1 baby should be placed in a crib to sleep
- The room temperature should be kept comfortable
- Wedges should not be used
- Smoking is never allowed in the pres-



ence of babies, in the area where they receive care, or in their sleeping area

- Babies should have supervised "tummy time" when they are awake
- All staff, emergency persons, and volunteers should be trained on safe sleep policies and procedures.

More detailed information about a safe sleep policy is available from the Child Care Licensing Central Office at 803-898-9020 or toll-free 800-556-7445.

Furthermore, the AAP offers the following Safe Sleep Practices:

- Practice SIDS reduction by using the standards in *Caring for our Children*
- Always place babies on their backs to sleep
- Don't cover a baby's head with a blanket or bundle them in excessive clothing and blankets
- Don't let babies get too hot
- Talk with families about sleep positioning and encourage them to follow these guidelines at home.

The AAP also describes a safe sleeping environment as one that uses a crib with a firm mattress and well fitting sheets, a crib that is free of toys and soft bedding, and a sleep area that is smoke-free. Items that should not be found in the baby's sleeping area include cushions, fluffy blankets, comforters, pillows, stuffed animals, and wedges. Finally, babies should never be placed to sleep on chairs, sofas, waterbeds, cushions, or adult beds.

The use of a fan could also contribute to a safer sleeping environment. According to a 2008 study conducted by Kaiser Permanente in California, the use of a fan in rooms where babies slept reduced the chances of SIDS by 72 percent. Researchers feel fans may prevent babies from suffocating by re-breathing exhaled carbon dioxide, one of the possible causes SIDS.

The National Institutes of Health, a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides information about SIDS on the Internet at www.nichd.nih.gov. Other links to information on SIDS are available at the South Carolina Child Care Services website: www.state.sc.us/dss/childcare

Much of the information for this article comes from two brochures published by the American Academy of Pediatrics – "A Child Care Providers Guide to Safe Sleep" and "A Parent's Guide to Safe Sleep." Both brochures are available from S.C. Child Care Licensing.

Important Dates

May 8 - International Child Care Provider Appreciation Day

May 12 - Governor's Advisory Committee, 10:00 AM, Children's Center (Columbia)

Health & Safety Alert

Hand sanitizers that contain ethyl alcohol pose a health hazard to young children and should be kept out of their reach. Information regarding the recent flu concerns recommends using these hand sanitizers to reduce the spread of the virus. To be on the safe side, it is recommended that child care providers monitor the use of these hand sanitizers around young children and store them out of reach.

Provider Appreciation Day

May 8, 2009 is Child Care Provider Appreciation Day! More information is available at www.providerappreciation.org. Provider Appreciation Day is co-sponsored by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA) and the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC).

For the Providers - Playground Safety

The National Program for Playground Safety designated April 19-25 as National Playground Safety Week. As the



weather gets warmer, and children are spending more time outdoors, please take time to insure that the playground area and equipment at your facility is safe and in good working order. Listed below are the DSS Child Care Regulations related to playgrounds and playground equipment:

114-507 A(7)(b) When outdoor temperature exceeds 90 degrees Fahrenheit, caution shall be used when children are involved in outdoor physical activities.

114-507 B(2) The outdoor space shall be free from hazards and litter.

114-507 B(3) Outdoor walkways shall be free from debris, leaves...and obstruction.

114-507 B(4) Children shall be restricted from unsafe areas and conditions such as traffic, parking areas,

ditches, and steep slopes by a fence or natural barrier that is at least four feet high.

114-507 C. Furniture, toys, and recreational equipment shall:

114-507 C(1) Be clean and free from hazards such as broken or loose parts, rust or peeling paint, pinch or crush points, unstable bases, sharp edges, exposed bolts, and openings that could cause head or limb entrapment;

114-507 C(2) Meet the standards of the US Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), if applicable. Recalled products listed by the CPSC shall not be accessible to children

114-507 C(3) Be developmentally and size appropriate, accommodating the maximum number of children involved in an activity at any one time;

114-507 C(6) Outdoor recreational equipment shall be made of durable, non-rusting, non-poisonous materials, and shall be sturdy;

114-507 C(7) Stationary outdoor equipment shall be firmly anchored and shall not be placed on a concrete

or asphalt surface. Cushioning material such as mats, wood chips or sand shall be used under climbers, slides, swings, and large pieces of equipment;

114-507 C(8) Swings shall be located to minimize accidents and shall have soft and flexible seats;

114-507 C(9) Cushioning material shall extend at least six (6) feet beyond the equipment and swings;

114-507 C(10) Slides shall have secure guards along both sides of the ladder and placed in a shaded area;

114-507 C(11) Outdoor metal equipment shall be located in shaded areas or otherwise protected from the sun;

114-507 C(12) Outdoor equipment shall be arranged so that children can be seen at all times;

114-507 C(13) The height of play equipment shall be developmentally and size appropriate;

114-507 C(14) Sand in a sand box shall be securely covered when not in use and, if outdoors, constructed to provide for drainage.

For Parents: Child Care Information on the Internet

“Some important government child-care safety records are entering the Internet age at last.” That’s the way a 2008 Wall Street Journal article started. The article tells the story of a Greenville, SC mother who was able to find information about child care facilities in her area on the DSS Child Care Services website. As she prepared to go back to work after the birth of her infant son, the mom was considering four child care centers. The website helped her narrow her search based on the health and safety information she could read for herself.

When the Wall Street Journal published this article last May, twenty states (including South Carolina) posted safety records for facilities online. Now, twenty-three states post some type of online informa-

tion about child care inspections. The format and amount of information varies from state to state. A visitor to the South Carolina website will find a list of general statements that describe deficiencies in very broad terms as well as contact information for a facility. A visitor to some other states’ sites could find a scanned copy of the actual inspection report (with names deleted).

A recent online article from the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA) cites research conducted in Florida that found that posting online inspection information leads to more frequent inspections of programs and higher quality care especially for low-income children.¹ The entire article is online at www.naccrra.org/map/.

Providers and parents alike are invited to visit the SC Child Care Services website at www.state.sc.us/dss/childcare. In addition to information about licensed child care facilities, a visitor to the site will also find useful information such as regulations, forms, and updates.

¹ Witte, A.D., & Querait, M. (2004). *What happens when child care inspections and complaints are made available on the Internet?* NBER Working Paper Series, No. 10277.





Staff Spotlight - Cynthia Lara, Licensing Director

On November 3, 2008, Child Care Licensing welcomed a new Director. Cynthia Lara

has a wealth of experience in state government and specifically in Child Care Services. She worked for 5 years in the ABC program – the child care subsidy program of DSS. Cynthia moved from the ABC program to Licensing at the request of the Child Care Services Director, Leigh Bolick, to provide some stability to the Region II Office, and in 2005, she became the Interim Supervisor in that region.

After over a year in that position, Cynthia moved to the Licensing Central Office to develop policy and conduct training. In 2007, Cynthia left Licensing to work in the EBT Program of DSS before returning to Licensing as Director a year later.

Cynthia has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of South Carolina and a Master of Arts in Management from Webster University. She has also earned the Associate Public Manager Certificate, the Public Professional Development Certificate, and the Certified Public Manager Certificate

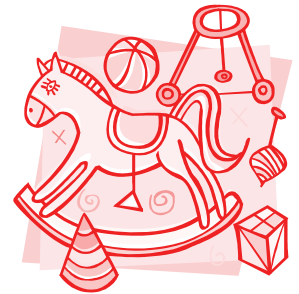
from the South Carolina Budget and Control Board.

Cynthia has two sons that she is very proud of. Her children are both honor students, members of the Beta Club and members of the wrestling team at their respective schools. Her oldest son is a senior in high school and will graduate with honors later this spring.

Away from work, Cynthia likes to run 5K races, watch Star Trek, and sing karaoke. She says that the most rewarding part of her job is “knowing that what we do ultimately keeps children safe.”

Product Recall

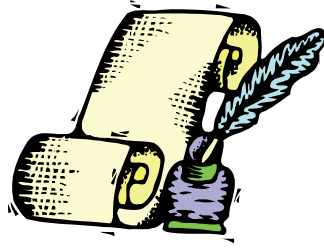
DSS Regulation 114-507C(2) states that furniture, toys, and recreational equipment shall meet the standards of the US Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), if applicable, and that recalled products shall not be accessible to children. To view recalled products and/or report a dangerous product or related injury, call CPSC’s hotline at 800-638-2772 or visit their website at www.cpsc.gov. The most recent recalls include:



- OKK Trading recalls pacifiers due to choking hazard
- Fisher-Price recalls 3-in-1 high chairs due to fall hazard
- Aviva Sports recalls trampolines due to fall hazard
- Educational craft kits recalled by FloraCraft due to violation of lead paint standard
- Montessori N’ Such recalls metal vases, pails and other containers due to violation of lead paint standard
- Nordstrom recalls girl’s shoes due to violation of lead paint standard
- Seattle Cotton Works hooded sweatshirts with drawstrings recalled due to strangulation hazard
- Ice skates recalled by Pronto Sports due to violation of lead paint standard
- State Farm® recalls Good NeighBears® due to choking hazard
- Pure Fishing recalls children’s fishing games due to violation of ban on lead in paint
- Infantino recalls infant toys due to choking hazard
- Children’s flip flops recalled by Alpargatas due to violation in lead paint standard
- Fishing games, baby rattles, and pull-along cars recalled by CBB Group due to choking hazard.
- Mini-pull cars and bubble guns recalled by CBB Group due to violation of lead paint standard
- Old Navy recalls stuffed toys; button eyes can detach and pose a choking hazard to young children
- Evenflo recalls children’s activity centers due to fall hazard
- Strangulation death of a child prompts Hill Sportswear to recall hooded sweatshirts with drawstrings
- Disney Store recalls toy tool sets due to choking hazard
- Golfer’s Billiard Games recalled by Dick’s Sporting Goods and Golf Galaxy due to violation of lead paint standard
- The Land of Nod recalls Cottage Bunk Beds in order to repair due to fall hazard
- Playland International recalls swing sets due to fall hazard
- Dorel Juvenile Group recalls Safety 1st Stair Gates due to fall hazard
- Children’s hooded sweatshirts recalled by Jerry Leigh of California due to strangulation hazard
- DDI Inc. recalls toy construction play sets due to violation of lead paint standard
- JAKKS Pacific recalls Spa Factory Aromatherapy Kits due to explosion and projectile hazards
- Skull-And-Crossbones Necklaces recalled by Spencer Gifts due to risk of lead exposure
- The Land of Nod recalls Children’s Canopies due to entrapment and strangulation hazards

Statutory Changes

The laws that govern how child care facilities are regulated have been moved to a new section of the South Carolina Code of Laws. The Children's Code was once a part of Title 20 - Domestic Relations. The legislature voted to give the Children's Code its own title number - Title 63. Where the statute numbers began with the number 20 before, now they will all begin with the number 63. Child Care Licensing is working to make the necessary revisions to forms, letters, permits, and other documents that are affected by the change.



Emergency Preparedness

Child Care Licensing has developed three emergency preparedness resources. The use of these documents is not mandated by statute or regulation. Instead, they are designed to help child care providers who choose to use them. The "Emergency Procedures for Child Care Providers" is a brochure that lists specific actions to take before, during, and after natural and man-made disasters. The Emergency Plan

Guidelines provide instructions on how to write a plan that is in compliance with South Carolina regulations. The Emergency Plan Template is a fill-in-the-blank document that, when completed accurately, will result in a plan that is useful, practical, and in compliance with SC regulations. All 3 resources are available on the Child Care Services website at www.state.sc.us/dss/childcare. Click on the "Forms and Documents" link to access them.

E-Newsletter

If you are reading this newsletter on the Child Care Services website and would like to receive it by e-mail, please contact Rick Knight at richard.knight@dss.sc.gov.

After our initial mailing of the newsletter, we received a good response from providers who want to receive the e-mail version, and we will continue to add other providers as we receive their information.

Did You Know?

During a one month period from January 12-February 11, 2009, the S.C. Child Care Services website had 13,946 visitors from 36 different countries - 13,812 of these visitors were from the United States.

Contact Information

Region 1

Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg Counties

864-370-2318
800-637-8550 (toll-free)
864-241-1099 (fax)

Region 2

Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, McCormick, Richland, Saluda, Union, and York Counties

803-898-9001
888-202-1469 (toll-free)
803-898-9002 (fax)

Region 3

Allendale, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, and Orangeburg Counties

843-953-9780
800-260-0211 (toll-free)
843-953-9787 (fax)

Region 4

Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, and Williamsburg Counties

843-661-6623
800-464-9138 (toll-free)
843-661-7504 (fax)

Central Office:

2638 Two Notch Road
Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29204,
803-898-9020
800-556-7445 (toll-free)
803-898-9029 (fax)

Visit our website at:

www.state.sc.us/dss/childcare



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