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The Latest from Child Care Licensing

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New Child Seat Law

New regulations are coming in July 2008. Just like seat belts, child safety seats also save lives. That's why their use is required by law in BC. **Starting July 1, 2008, new regulations will take effect.** These new regulations will strengthen the existing ones to provide more protection to children in BC. They will require all drivers to be responsible for transporting children in an age-and weight-appropriate child safety seat until they reach their 9th birthday unless they have reached the height of 145cm (4'9") tall.

The current regulations in BC require the use of child safety seats only for children up to 18 kg (40 lb.). Most children reach this weight by the time they are four or five years old, which we know to be too young to safely use adult seat belts alone. In addition, the current BC regulations exempt a number of drivers from child safety seat requirements, resulting in many children being transported without a child safety seat. Several of these exemptions will be removed by the new legislation. It's important to realize that the current regulations relating to child safety seats are the **minimum required standards**. BC's new child passenger regulations will align with the best practices and provide more protection to children in BC. Why wait until July 2008? **Adopt the new regulations today to protect your child's safety.** Ensure that your child is **always** properly restrained, no matter who is driving.

Summary of the new regulations that will come into effect in July 2008:

- All drivers are responsible for complying with all child safety seat requirements.
- Infants are to be secured in a **rear-facing safety seat** until they are a least one year old and 9kg (20 lb.). Infants may remain in the rear-facing position until they reach the upper weight limit for the safety seat. **Rear-facing safety seats must never be used in a seating position with an active front airbag.**
- Children who have outgrown their rear-facing safety seat are to be secured in a **forward-facing child safety seat** until they are at least 18 kg (40 lb.).
- Children at least 18 kg (40 lb.) are to be secured:
 - in a **booster seat** in a seating position equipped with a lap and shoulder harness, or
 - up to their 9th birthday unless they have reached 145cm (4'9") tall.
- Children who have passed their 9th birthday or are at least 145cm (4'9") tall, must be properly restrained by an adult **seat belt**.

New Database and Website for the Early Childhood Educator Registry

The Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Registry is pleased to announce our new database and website that will be launched later this month. The new database will eventually allow students and practitioners to apply and/or renew their licensure as an Early Childhood Educator, Infant Toddler Educator, Special Needs Educator and Assistant from our website. Along with the new database, the ECE Registry website has also been updated and will include new application forms (attached) to apply for licensure and to renew licensure. These will be available on our website in a printable hardcopy form (PDF) or as an on-line application. Any old application forms that you currently have need to be destroyed immediately as they will no longer be accepted. Old applications received at the ECE Registry will be returned to the applicant along with a new application form. In



the coming weeks, a letter will be mailed out to all currently licensed educators to inform them of the changes and help prevent the receipt of old forms.

Please visit us on-line at www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/ece. We trust this new system will better serve the needs of our clients and we welcome your feedback. If you have questions or comments on the new system, please contact me directly at (250) 356-6285 at any time.

Denise Pawliuk, Registrar
Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Registry

Toy Recalls and Health Warnings:

1. Fisher-Price announced it is recalling nearly one million Chinese-made toys over concerns about lead-based paint. The worldwide recall affects 967,000 Nickelodeon, Sesame Street, and Fisher-Price toys. The toys were made in China and sold in Canada between May and August. See the Canadian product list of recalled toys below.
 - 39054 Sesame Street Shape Sorter, B9617 Dora Figures for Doll House, B9620 Dora's Talking House, G3825 Dora Talking Vamonos Van, G3830 Let's Go Adventure Playsets, H4187 Dora Figures in the Tube, H6859 Dora Talking House French, H9203 Sing N' Giggle Tool Bench, J0338 Diego Talking Field Journal, J0342 Diego Animal Adventure, J0346 Diego Talking Rescue 4x4, J1136 Talking Vamonos Van-French, J9451 Talking Rescue 4x4 French, K0730 Dora's Shop'N Go Market, K2448 Dora's Talking Market-French, K3414 Diego Talking Gadget Belt, K3571 Go Diego Go Mobile Resc, K9287 Talking Gadget Belt – French, L3265 Diego Animal Adventure, L5342 Mobile Rescue Unit French.
2. Health Canada is also warning Canadians that children may be exposed to lead if they chew, suck on or swallow zipper pulls or cellphone charms which contain high levels of lead. The zipper pulls and cellphone charms were sold at Dollarama stores in Canada between July 2006 and August 2007, and have been voluntarily recalled by Dollarama.
3. **CPSC Warns About Worn Vinyl Baby Bibs.** WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The U.S Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff warns that there is a potential risk of lead exposure from baby bibs with cracked or peeling vinyl surfaces. This consumer alert applies only to used bibs that are worn or have deteriorated. Pieces of vinyl containing lead could pose a hazard to infants if they are swallowed. CPSC staff recommends that parents and caregivers discard bibs that are in poor condition to avoid any potential exposure to lead from swallowed vinyl. Vinyl baby bibs have been sold through major retailers since at least 2004. They range in price from \$2 to \$7 and come in packs of up to ten. The bibs come in colorful designs and have either a vinyl front with a cloth backing or a cloth front with vinyl backing.

Community Care Facilities Food Handling Requirements

Permit Requirements:

Community care facilities with greater than 8 persons in child care or greater than 6 persons in residential care which prepare food must comply with the requirements of the Health Act. The requirements include an operating permit, an annual permit fee, equipment requirements, and being subject to regular inspections by Environmental Health Officers.

What Constitutes Food Preparation?

The following are examples of food handling and preparation that will require a permit under the Health Act when conducted in a licensed facility that is more than 8 child care or 6 residential spaces:

- Hot dogs
- Milk Shakes
- Pizza
- Macaroni and Cheese casseroles
- Soups from scratch
- Sandwiches
- Salads
- Hamburgers
- Fried Chicken
- Boiled or Fried eggs



While food safety is important for all persons in facilities, it is recognized that some limited handling of low hazard foods is necessary for the provision of nutritious and convenient snacks. The activities listed below allows for the serving of popular snack foods. Food preparation should be limited to:

- Slicing of raw vegetables, fruit, bread, cheese, muffins and cakes
- Dispensing of dry foods (i.e. dry cereal, dry fruits) ice cream and beverages
- Spreading of jam, peanut butter, cream cheese on crackers, toast or celery
- Heating bottled milk (breast milk or formula), ready-made and instant soups
- Dispensing milk from its original container
- Baking low hazard snacks jointly with children as an activity

Note: All cups, bowls, dishes and utensils used for food service must be either disposable, or be washed and sanitized using the three compartment sink method, or in a manner approved by the Environmental Health Officer.

Pool Safety

Children shall not be permitted to play without constant supervision in areas where there is any body of water, including swimming pools, built-in wading pools, tubs, pails, sinks, or toilets, ponds and irrigation ditches. Small children can drown within 30 seconds, in as little as 2 inches of liquid. To avoid such tragedies it is imperative to create rules and teach children the importance of safety around pools. If you choose to have a pool in your facility you must submit the following to your licensing officer:

- Health and Safety Plan (Refer to City Bylaws, and your insurance company to ensure that your license provides coverage on pools)
- Supervision Plan (staff to child ratio)
- Poolside Behaviors/Rules
- Sanitation Plan

If you need more information on pool safety contact your Licensing Officer.

Pedestrian Safety Tips

Children under nine should be accompanied by adults or older children when crossing the street. At this age, their judgment and perceptual skills are still immature, yet they often eagerly try to cross streets on their own in order to demonstrate some independence. Teach your children the rules of the road – start when they're young. Think of it as gradually training your children about safety until all the connections are in place. By the time your child reaches age nine and can act independently, the road safety rules will be second nature.

- Teach children how to cross the street safely. Teach them to stop (before stepping onto the road), look left, right and left again, and listen for traffic before stepping out into the street. Teach children to wait until the street is clear and to keep looking until they have crossed the street. They should also look the driver in the eye before crossing.
- Teach children to recognize pedestrian crossing signals but not rely on them. Before crossing, children should also be sure the traffic has stopped. Remind them to continue across if the light changes to "Don't Walk" while they are in the crosswalk.
- Teach children to be extra alert when crossing at a corner with no traffic lights.
- Teach your children to stop at driveways, alleys and areas without curbs and to never run out onto the street.
- Teach children about the dangers of crossing the street between parked cars or when not at a corner. Children should cross only at corners and pedestrian crosswalks, not diagonally or between parked cars.
- Teach children to respect the role of the crossing guard and to understand his/her signals.
- Teach children that wherever possible they should walk on the sidewalk. In areas without sidewalks, teach children to walk as far away from the road as possible, facing approaching traffic (when there is no choice but to walk on the road).
- Teach children that playing games at railway crossings or around trains can be deadly. Teach children that the only way to cross railway tracks is to use designated railway crossings.



Follow the same rules that you want your child to follow. You may want to cut across the street in the middle of the block, but you want your child to learn to cross at the intersection. Be a good role model.

Region Wide Updates:

NORTHEAST - Retirement wishes to Judy Barth, Licensing Advisor for Northern Health who left October 31, 2007. New Licensing Officer, part-time in Dawson Creek, Pam Sawyer.

NORTHWEST – Thank you to Ron McNaughton for his temporary placement in the Smithers Office for a one year maternity leave. Welcome back to Licensing Officer Sherry Ricketts who returned to work on August 17, 2007.

NORTHERN INTERIOR - Licensing Officer Dawn Williams has been seconded to Victoria for another year. We welcome our newest Licensing Officer Charlene McFadyen. She is replacing Julie Sprathoff and will be working in the Prince George, Quesnel and Mackenzie areas.

Websites

BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation
http://www.tsfbcaa.com/child_safety_seats
ECE Registry
www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/ece
Health Canada: Recalls
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/index_e.html
The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
www.cpsc.gov/talk.html
City Bylaws (Prince George)
<http://www.city.pg.bc.ca/cityhall/bylaws/>
Pedestrian Safety
<http://www.sickkids.ca/SKCFForPartners/custom/SafeKidsPEDenfactsheet.pdf>

