

Licensing's Latest Child Care Newsletter

Fall 2016



CHILD CARE LICENSING NEWSLETTER

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For more
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website:



island health

www.viha.ca/mho/licensing

Updates to the Child Care Licensing Regulation

Please see the insert in this newsletter for Order in Council (OIC) #526 – released by the province and effective July 18, 2016 which sets out the changes to the Child Care Licensing Regulation in Schedule 1 of the OIC. To summarize, amendments were made to:

- Section 1 Definitions “day of school closure”
- Section 3 Certain programs exempt
- Section 4 Use of terms prohibited – Unlicensed providers may not use the names of licensed program types (i.e., Family Child Care, Preschool)
- Section 11(4)
Posting certificates – A copy of a certificate may be posted
- Section 13 Environment – Addition of *Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act* definitions: activated e-cigarette, e-cigarette, tobacco [e-cigarettes cannot be used on the premise or in a vehicle used to transport children].
- Section 16 Play area – Change in size requirement to 6m² per child. Allowance for more than one group of children, of the same service type to share the outdoor play space at the same time when health and safety is maintained
- Section 19 Character and skill – Removal of medical certificate requirement. New requirement to validate ECE certification through the ECE Registry
- Section 55 Notification of illness – Removal of duplicate communicable disease reporting
- Section 56 Records – New requirement of Licensees to implement all policies and procedures
- Schedule H Reportable Incident – Emergency restraint redefined

A high level summary of some of the changes includes:

- Better language to reflect when school is closed to students.
- Further clarification on exempt programs, the amended section clarifies that kindergarten children can attend an exempt [unlicensed] program once their school year commences [i.e. winter and spring break].
- Requirement for Licensees to validate the certification to practice all of their employees [Early Childhood Educator’s, Assistants, Infant Toddler Educators and Special Needs Educators] using the ECE Registry validation system: <https://earlychildhoodeducator.gov.bc.ca/Public/CertAndRenewal/CertificateValidation.aspx>
- A reduction in the size per child of outdoor play space to 6m² per child and clarification on the use of shared spaces.
- The definition of “emergency restraint” has been amended to “... means a restraint that is necessary to protect the child or others from imminent serious physical harm that is not approved and documented in the child’s care plan.”

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New Active Play Director of Licensing Standard of Practice



The new Standard of Practice – Active Play promotes children’s health and wellness by requiring licensed child care facilities to ensure children are active daily outside by setting guidelines for Licensees to implement into their daily activities [included in newsletter]. Licensees are required to develop both an active play and screen time policy as part of this standard. All programs must limit screen time (TV, computers, electronic games) to 30 minutes a day. Children who attend a program for three or less hours and children under the age of two should not be offered screen time. Licensing will be using an educational approach with regard to this standard until September 2017.

The following licensed child care facilities must ensure a minimum of 60 minutes per day of outdoor active play. The 60 minutes can be continuous or accumulated through 15 minute portions of time throughout the day.

Family Child Care

Multi-Age Child Care

In-Home Multi-Age Child Care

Licensed child care programs where children are in attendance for 3 hours or less must develop an active play plan acceptable to the Medical Health Officer (Licensing Officer).

Group Child Care (Under 36 Months)

Group Child Care (30 Months to School Age)

Group Child Care (School Age)

Additionally, there are reduced requirements for Preschool programs depending on the length of the program.

Physical Literacy

Written by Joel Verbruggen

Physical Literacy in Early Childhood Settings

Physical activity is an important part of a child’s development. For children 3-4 years old, at least 180 minutes of physical activity every day at any intensity is recommended. Without learning the basics of movement at an early age, children are at risk of not developing the competency, confidence, and motivation to continue participating in activities throughout their lives, increasing the risk of physical inactivity.

Physical Literacy: What and Why?

Physical literacy is the equivalent of learning to read or write for your body. Learning basic movements at an early age sets the foundation for competency and confidence throughout a person’s life. Specialized training is not needed to encourage and develop young children’s physical literacy. The focus in children, aged 0-5 years, should be to expose children to “fundamental movements” through a wide variety of movements, activities, intensity levels, and various games. Games are particularly important as they teach social interactions, rules, physical interaction and fun!

Fundamental Movements

There are various ways of classifying the basic movements which make up total physical literacy mastery, but Canadian Sport 4 Life defines the fundamental movements of physical literacy as the following: Walking, Running, Balance, Skating/Skiing, Jumping, Swimming, Cycling, Skipping, Throwing, Kicking, Striking, Catching, Trapping. The fundamental movement stage sets a vital foundation for learning various activities and sports. For example, in the fundamental movements’ stage, a child may play a bean bag game where they throw bean bags various distances, alternating hands, under hand and overhand throws, and at different types of targets. In the sport specific skill stage, the child would then learn to pitch a baseball with coaching.

How to get started

Step one is to work a planned physical activity program or lesson plan into your schedule. Planning does not necessarily mean rigid, but it ensures different fundamental movements are incorporated. Planning also helps with time management, and planning of resources such as staff persons. For example the following could be implemented over time:

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1. Planned activities to cover all fundamental movements in a set period of time (over a number of weeks, months).
2. Tracking group activities to measure the overall participation and learning of groups of children, and to target activities that need more practice.
3. Report cards (individual tracking) used to track each child's participation, confidence, and mastery of skills.

Seems complicated?

It doesn't need to be, the emphasis is fun! Many games you may currently use incorporate multiple movements. There will always be some movements such as skiing, skating, or swimming which a childcare facility cannot reasonably practice. The goal could be then to inform parents what the children are doing, and then parents can make educated decisions about what they want to add to the child's schedule. Use your favorite existing games and resources to give children many options, choices, and fun games and activities to promote physical activity for life.

Recommended Resources

- HOP (Healthy Opportunities for Preschoolers) – games and activities (see decoda.ca below)
- LEAP – movements for ages 0-3. <http://www.decoda.ca/resources/decoda-publications/>
- Canadian Sport 4 Life. <http://canadiansportforlife.ca/> - resources for physical literacy learning.
- <http://Activeforlife.com/> - physical literacy checklists, coaching tips.
- <http://physicalliteracy.ca/> - more physical literacy resources.

Joel Verbruggen is a Residential Care Licensing Officer with Island Health who recently completed a Masters of Public Health and completed a project on Physical Literacy in child care settings.

From the Island Health website: http://www.viha.ca/health_info/lice.htm

Head Lice

Head lice are common in BC communities. Although they are a bother, head lice are not a health risk. Healthlink BC has a resource specific to head lice that can be found here: <http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile06.htm>
Island Health also has information at http://www.viha.ca/health_info/lice.htm

You were asking...

My friend also operates a licensed child care facility out of her home; we like to get together for play time as she has a huge backyard. Is this OK?

The Licensees must ensure that the ages and numbers of children in the residence comply with the community care facility licence as outlined in Schedule E of the Child Care Licensing Regulation at all times. If a Licensee operated as a Family Child Care (FCC) and had five children in care, there could only be two more children present in the home if the ages of the children were in compliance with Schedule E. A FCC operator could not have a group of seven children in care and then have another FCC over to play in the backyard that also had seven children in care as this would be exceeding the maximum group size as stated on the community care facility licence for the premise.

When am I required to submit a “service delivery problem” incident report to Licensing?

Schedule H of the Child Care Licensing regulation defines “**service delivery problem**”, as any condition or event which could reasonably be expected to impair the ability of the licensee or his or her employees to provide care, or which affects the health, safety or well-being of children;

The definition in Schedule H applies to all licensed child care facilities (e.g. FCC, GCC, Preschool, etc.), therefore, if a Licensee had to close due to an unexpected illness, snow closure, power outage, strike [as examples], it would constitute a reportable incident and an incident report form should be submitted to Licensing. If the Licensee's own child was unexpectedly ill and the Licensee did not operate as a result, this would also meet the definition of a service delivery problem and be reportable to Licensing.

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“Service delivery problem” should be interpreted as any occurrence that may impact care provision such that the facility had to close unexpectedly. Scheduled closures where advance notice was provided would not be reportable. Examples of a scheduled closure may include: planned vacation, surgery, painting or repairs to the space necessitating closure. The purpose of incident report forms is to ensure that incidents are reported and reviewed in a timely manner, both within a facility and by the Community Care Facility Licensing staff. The process is to assist in the prevention of recurrence and in the promotion of a high standard of care, safety, health and dignity of the person in care. There are a number of reasons why Licensees must report incidents to Licensing, including allowing us an opportunity to:

- Assess what happened while children were in care and, therefore, the effects on them (if any),
- Alert Licensing to what is going on in the facility for follow-up,
- Keep track of incidents for statistical purposes, etc.

When am I able to utilize the Criminal Record Check Sharing form for my staff?

Employees are able to utilize a sharing form when working for multiple Licensees in order to save costs associated with multiple checks. These forms can be used when the employee has completed a criminal record check through the Criminal Records Review Program (CRRP) within the last five years, they wish to share the results with another organization and both organizations are registered with the CRRP.

Please visit the CRRP website for the sharing form:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/crime-prevention/criminal-record-check/crr022-sharing.pdf>



Are You Aware?

Please refer to the following important Island Health news release regarding the potential dangers of wild mushrooms located on Vancouver Island:

http://www.viha.ca/about_viha/news/news_releases/nr_death_poison_mushroom_12oct2016.htm



For VIHA Region-wide Updates:

South Island

#201-771 Vernon Ave (Gateway Village), Victoria, BC V8X 5A7, PH: 250.519.3401, FAX: 250.519.3402

Orientation Sessions

Child Care Information Sessions for Family Child Care Applicants are available on Saturday mornings.

Manager Information Sessions for Prospective and New Managers of Group Child Care Facilities (including Group Child Care – School Age) are held a minimum twice per year. Contact 250-519-3401 to inquire and register for the next sessions.

Central Island

#29-1925 Bowen Road, Nanaimo BC, V9S 1H1, PH: 250.739.5800, FAX: 250.740.2675

Orientation Sessions

For information regarding the

Child Care Licensing Information Sessions or the Manager Information Sessions for Prospective and New Managers of Group Child Care Facilities (including Group Child Care – School Age), please contact 250-739-5800 to inquire and register.

North Island – Two offices:

#200-1100 Island Highway, Campbell River, BC V9W 8C6, PH: 250.850.2110, FAX: 250.850.2455

355 – 11th Street, Courtenay, BC V9N 1S4, PH: 250.331.8620, FAX: 250.331.8596

For more information on Child Care Licensing Information Sessions being offered contact 250.739.5800.