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June N E W S L E T T E R 2010



## Summer Time is Here!

Now that the warm weather is upon us, it is extremely important for all child care providers to review the New York State Office of Children and Family Services' regulations and policies relating to playground safety, water safety, and the importance of applying sunscreen to all children in order to avoid sunburn. During the summer months, most child care programs spend the majority of day care hours outdoors. Many child care programs take weekly field trips. Please remember to take head counts of the children in your care often. Take head counts as soon as the children get in and out of cars and buses used to transport children on field trips. Make sure that someone knows the whereabouts of all children at all times whether on or off of the day care property. When on field trips, make sure the food you are taking can be stored properly as food spoils more quickly in the warm weather. The most important thing to remember when caring for children is to make sure that direct supervision is maintained at all times. The Community Child Care Clearinghouse of Niagara would like to wish all child care providers a safe and happy summer!



## The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Western New York Infant Toddler Resource Network Conference

The 2010 conference will be held on August 21, 2010, from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm, at the Holiday Valley Resort and Conference Center in Ellicottville, NY. We hope to see you there. For more information, please contact Joanne Sandonato at 716-285-8572 ext. 104.



## Subsidy Fraud Detection and Prevention A Note from New York State Division of Child Care Services Deputy Commissioner Janice Molnar

Partners- We are firmly convinced that child care providers on the whole and for the most part are doing their best working within the rules, procedures, and guidelines of the NYS Subsidy Regulations. However, some individuals are not. FYI. Some of you may have seen the June 12, Buffalo News article concerning the conviction of a licensed child care provider for fraud against the child care subsidy program. It follows up a previous case with a similar result from February, and another from March. This case was initiated through the Buffalo Regional Office, which noticed some irregularities during the inspection process. The Regional Office worked closely with the Erie County Department of Social Services to investigate and build the case for presentation to the district attorney's office for prosecution.

The Division of Child Care Services is firmly committed to maintaining the integrity of the child care subsidy program and to monitoring the appropriate use of federal, state, and local funds. As such, it has taken steps to establish partnerships with local social services districts and other agencies to identify providers with suspicious activities and to develop collaborative efforts to assess the fraudulent nature of those activities. OCFS also recognizes that there is a need to increase provider awareness of the responsibility for maintaining professional quality of care and character standards, appropriate business and record keeping standards, and compliance with regulatory requirements.

We have communicated this message to CCR&Rs, local districts, elected officials, and are now spreading the word to the provider community. We're serious about doing all we can to see that valuable child care dollars are spent appropriately. Thanks.

Janice M. Molnar  
Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Child Care Services  
New York State Office of Children and Family Services  
52 Washington Street, South Building  
Rensselaer, NY 12144



## Physical Activity in the School-Age Years

School-age children are developing physical skills rapidly. Children between the ages of six and twelve years are typically very energetic and enjoy strenuous physical activity. It is very important to provide a balance of quiet and physical activities for school-age children. Children who have been cooped up in a very structured school situation all day will need to let off steam and run and yell when they first arrive in a school-age program. Taking the children outside daily provides the perfect opportunity to release this pent up energy and will result in less behavior problems for school-age child care staff. If you are a school-age child care program director, make sure your daily program routine allows time for physical activity when the children arrive. If you are a parent looking to place a child in a school-age child care program, make sure the program allows time for your child to have plenty of physical activity.



## Websites for Parents and Providers

[www.safesoundbabies.com](http://www.safesoundbabies.com) is a wonderful website for parents and providers of infants. Parents and providers can obtain information on ways to cope while keeping babies safe and sound.

[www.kidactivities.net](http://www.kidactivities.net) is a website where parents and providers can find activities for children from preschool through high school.

## Picnic Pasta Salad for Kids

This simple to make pasta salad recipe takes only fifteen minutes to prepare and is a healthy meal that children will love on a hot summer day.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup whole-grain alphabet shaped pasta
- 2/3 cup minced carrots
- 1/2 cup peas
- 1/2 cup diced part-skim mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup light Italian or balsamic-vinaigrette salad dressing



Directions:

1. Cook the pasta according to the package directions. Add the carrots and peas during the last minute of cooking. Drain and rinse the pasta with cold water.
2. In a large bowl with a lid, gently mix together the pasta, vegetables, mozzarella cheese, and salad dressing. Cover the bowl and pack for transporting outdoors.

## Melon Swizzler<sup>®</sup>

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cantaloupe
- 1/2 honeydew
- 1/4 seedless watermelon



Directions:

Make about 20 melon balls from each fruit. Thread five on a plastic straw alternating colors. Repeat with remaining melon. Serve as a fun snack to children four years and older.

Administered by the Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.