

Benton County Family Child Care Providers Fall 2015

Wow, can you believe that it is the middle of November already? Where has the time gone? It has been great to have such beautiful weather and hopefully you were able to get out and enjoy the sunshine! Wishing you well!

Staff

Our staff has remained the same this past year but just wanted to give you our contact information again.

Pam Foss – 320-968-5158 (usual hours are Monday- Thursday 7:30am to 4:00pm) Best way to reach me is by email at pfoss@co.benton.mn.us

Rachael Wyatt – 968-5094 She completes most of the drop ins as well as the off year paperwork.

Gun Safety

Just a reminder to ensure that guns are unloaded, locked in a separate area from the ammunition. The ammunition also needs to be in a locked box. If you are using a gun cabinet that has two separate compartments, just ensure they are both locked.

Home Visits

MN DHS has told us that they would like all of our home visits to now be unannounced so as of January 2016, I will no longer be able to schedule your relicensing visits. It will be explained to you in the letter that you get from us with your relicensing paperwork as to when we will be coming out. I have narrowed down the month for you and would ask that you notify me if there are days you are closed so I do not come out when you are not there.

Training

We know the training requirements have brought a lot of confusion and frustration by providers. Here is breakdown....

Each caregiver that works more than 30 days per year and the license holder needs to have 16 hours of training per year.

Of those 16 hours....

- Each Year: 2 hours must be in an Active Supervision class (there are currently about 5 options but more will be coming) This training needs to be taken through Child Care Aware and can be taken in person or online at www.eagertolearn.org under Anytime Learning * These classes need to be taken less than one year apart from each other!
- Each Year: 2 hours must be in a Core Competency IV class. There are many options throughout the Child Care Aware catalog or you can take an online course through www.eagertolearn.org under Anytime Learning * These classes need to be taken less than one year apart from each other!
- Every other year: CPR (infant and child) and First Aid need to be taken. This needs to be an in person class and certified through American Red Cross or American Heart Association. There are some options of where this training can be found such as Child Care Aware; American Red Cross; local Community Education; Emergency Outfitters; St Cloud Technical College; Private Parties such as Tanja Burthwick 218-821-1340; Susie Wistrom (320) 248-3679 * These classes need to be less than 2 years apart from each other!
- SUIDS and AHT class needs to be taken every other year. You will need to watch the videos in the off year. This needs to be done through Child Care Aware or online at www.eagertolearn.org Anytime Learning. Some people are deciding to take the class each year and that is just fine. * The class/video need to be less than one year apart from each other!
- If transporting, you need to take the CARS class every three years. This is currently offered through Benton County Public Health and Child Care Aware.
- The rest of your hours can be in any classes of your choice, please get a certificate! Please be advised that most of the CARE courses at this time are not approved by Minnesota so it is not advisable to take these classes at this time.

Outside Time

Please be reminded that the children need to get outside even in the winter months. We know that you will all use common sense when it is too cold, raining or windy but want to remind providers that the children should be getting outside. We know that it takes a long time to get all the kids bundled up to go outside but it is important and the fresh air will be good for them. Remind parents to send them in appropriate clothing!

Infant Sleep

Infants need to be put to sleep in a crib or pack n play with a tight fitting mattress at all times. We continue to do fines for infants sleeping on the floor, on the couch or in the swing. Babies need to be put to sleep on their back and if they are rolling over and less than 6 months of age. Please have the parents sign the form on our website. Also ensure that you are checking on them often in person. Crib sheets need to be done each month and you need to check them annually with Consumer Product Safety.

Variances

We will continue to allow providers to have 60 days of variance per year but you must not have had any negative actions over the past year and need to be up to date on your training and paperwork. Please note that we would like to have them back so we have at least a few weeks to get them done and back to you. We are not allowed to grant variances over the phone but we can give you a good idea of if it will work or not but we do need the paper trail. Many people think that we are too strict with our variances but DHS would like to see no variances for any reason but with the shortage of care at this time this is not realistic to our county.

Legislative Change

Attendance Records for Child in Care: The law has been clarified that providers will no longer need to keep attendance records when they only receive food program reimbursement but if you have a family that is on child care assistance then you still need to keep attendance records. These records need to include first and last name of child, time of drop off, time of pick up, parent signatures. We will no longer ask to see these records but will remind you of this if you have child care assistance families.

Websites that we have found helpful for providers for projects!

A reminder that busy hands, busy fingers equal fewer behavioral problems. Our parent evaluation forms usually show that parents would like to see the kids doing projects or learning activities with the kids. You don't have to purchase a curriculum if you don't want to but you can just print off some activities to work on numbers, letters, and colors. Movies are fine to help with this such a Letter or Word Factory but we need to follow up with actually working on them together as kids need to have a lot more skills before Kindergarten than every before!

www.Childcareland.com www.childfun.com www.simplydaycare.com
www.childcarelounge.com www.123child.com

We know that we have given you a lot of changes in the past few years but know that we appreciate your patience with us as many of you know that we are adjusting to these changes as well and have little to say about how they happen. We appreciate all that you do and wish you the very best in the upcoming Holiday Season!