



Quarterly Update

WINTER 2020

CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL UPDATE

Children's Residential Licensing Program Mission:

To protect and improve the lives of all youth who reside in a community care facility through the administration of a transparent licensing system that is collaborative, fair, and supportive of families.

A Note from Pamela Dickfoss, Deputy Director

Welcome to the Winter 2019 Children's Residential Program (CRP) Quarterly Update! This season has been filled with a whirlwind of critical weather conditions! The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) would like to remind providers to review their facility's emergency/disaster plan to ensure their facility is properly prepared. California energy companies have been responding to dangerous weather by shutting off power to certain customers, with planned blackouts in impacted parts of California becoming routine. PG&E is offering a way for non-account holders (such as tenants) to enter their zip codes and be alerted when there will be a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) affecting their area. Please visit the [PG&E website](#) for more information and to register.

In October, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency in California counties where wildfires fed by high winds and dry weather have led to evacuation orders for tens of thousands of residents. For the latest updates on wildfire incidents in California please visit [Cal Fire's webpage](#).

Governor Newsom has further announced a one-stop [website](#) portal with information on the fires/power shut-offs. The California's Health and Human Services Agency has also created a [resource guide](#) to help connect those who lose power during PG&E's planned shutoffs with help. Finally, Provider Information Notices (PIN) [19-10-CCLD](#) provides information to help providers prepare for these ongoing and potential public safety power shutoffs and wildfire emergencies.

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Winter Weather Reminders

Winter storms and cold temperatures can be dangerous. Stay safe and healthy by planning ahead. Prepare for power outages. If you are prepared for the hazards of winter, you will be more likely to stay safe and healthy when temperatures start to fall. During the cooler months you should ensure that your facility/home is ready for extreme weather:

- Know your risk for winter storms
- Listen for emergency information and alerts
- Gather supplies in case you need to shelter in place
- Create an emergency kit
- Check the heater filter
- Clean out chimneys and fire places
- Clear rain gutters

Ensure the youth are prepared for cold weather.

- Make sure youth are dressed appropriately when going on outings
- Make sure youth are warm enough inside the facility/home
- Moisturize frequently
- Keep hydrated

The [Ready.gov/kids](https://www.ready.gov/kids) website has additional tips for staying safe during the winter.

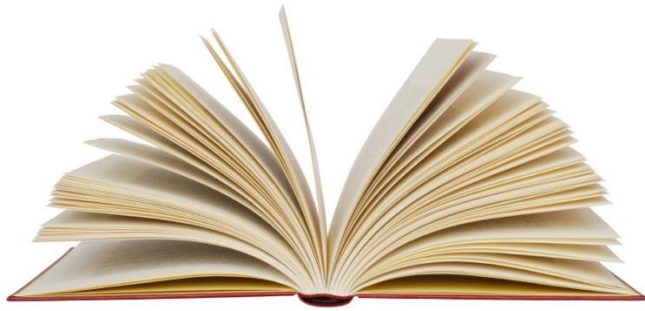


Encouraging Children and Youth to Read

Although encouraging reading may at first appear to be a “hard sell” to children and youth during their well-earned downtime, a break from their daily academics should not be confused with a lessening of their intellectual curiosity—or their appetite to know and learn new things. Whether packaged as something “beneficial” to the child or youth or simply urged as a more “sensible” alternative to activities we may consider less productive, the effect of the messaging is the same: reading gets equated with “workload” rather than a source of genuine enjoyment and personal enrichment.

The benefits of children and youth developing reading skills, and a genuine joy of reading, are

endless. It can help with their ability to concentrate and better understand the world around them. Packaged in such an abstract way, however, the benefits are more likely to be lost on the younger audience. A barrier can be raised when reading is presented as an end in itself rather than a “vehicle” that can take people to exciting new destinations and expand imaginations. This key difference is captured in the statements, “You ought to read more,” versus “You mentioned you were interested in classic cars. Here’s a great article/book you might be interested in.”



The key is to get to know the child or the youth well enough to have an understanding of the subjects that interest them and to propose reading materials that would help them explore their interests even further—effectively bypassing the “battle” to get the child or the youth to read more.

The following is a list of sections taken from Title 22 Regulations and Interim Licensing Standards relating to this subject:

Group Homes & STRTPs:

[Group Home Title 22 Section 84079\(a\)\(4\) – Planned Activities](#)
[STRTP Interim Licensing Standards Section 87079\(a\)\(5\) – Planned Activities](#)

Foster Family Homes:

[FFH Title 22 Section 89379\(a\) – Activities](#)

Resource Family Homes:

[FFA Interim Licensing Standards Section 88487.14\(a\) – Extracurricular, Enrichment, Cultural, and Social Activities](#)

Healthy Habits – Food Allergies

A [WebMD article](#) describes a food allergy as when your body mistakes harmless food as something that could make you sick. When you eat something that you are allergic to, your immune system responds to protect you. You might get a mild skin rash or itchy eyes, or you could have a bigger reaction that leaves you gasping for breath. Food allergies can be serious, but you can take steps to manage them. One of the best things you can do is avoid your trigger foods. Eight foods that cause about 90% of food allergy reactions are:

- Milk
- Eggs
- Peanuts
- Tree nuts
- Soy
- Wheat
- Fish
- Shellfish

An [allergic reaction](#) can happen within minutes of eating, or it may happen hours later. Facility staff need to be made aware of allergies and special diets so that the specific needs of residents in care are met. Best practice would be to have a plan regarding any identified food allergies to distribute to persons involved with the care of a child and on file. Sites related specifically to children with food allergies include [FARE \(Food Allergy Research & Education\)](#), where you can see a short video from children describing their view of having a food allergy, and the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), where you can create your own plan.

Title 22 Sections on Records

FFH - [§89370\(a\)\(2\) – Children's Records](#)
RFH - [§88070\(a\)\(1\)\(E\) – Children's Case Records](#)
GH - [§84070\(b\)\(5\) – Children's Records](#)

STRTP (Interim Licensing Standards)
[§87070\(b\)\(5\) – Children's Records](#)

Title 22 Sections on Food Service

FFH - [§89376\(a\) – Food Service](#)

SIDS and Safe Sleep Practices for Providers

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), is the sudden death of an infant younger than one year of age that remains unexplained after a thorough investigation. A common risk factor for SIDS is an unsafe sleep environment. Below are safe sleep recommendations for providers that may help prevent the risk of SIDS:

- Place infants on their backs when sleeping.
- Use a firm sleep surface such as a mattress in a safety-approved crib.
- Keep soft bedding such as blankets, pillows, bumper pads, and soft toys out of the baby's sleep area.
- Use a sleep sack instead of blankets.
- Ensure that pacifiers have nothing attached to them.
- Refrain from bed sharing.
- Do not over dress the infant.

- Remove all bibs or teething necklaces before placing the infant in the crib.
- Provide frequent monitoring and supervision while the infant is sleeping.



For additional information and resources on SIDS and Safe Sleep please visit the [Safe Sleep website](#).

California Poison Control System (CPCS)

Poison exposure can lead to detrimental health effects and is unfortunately the number one leading cause of injury-related deaths in the country. Tragically, due to a child's exploratory nature, about half of poisonings occur in children under 6 years of age. If you suspect a child has been poisoned it is imperative to contact emergency medical services immediately.

CPCS provides free, confidential poison-related information services in the state of California. You can call the CPCS toll-free number at **1-800-222-1222** for questions about any encounters with poisons, hazards, or toxins. Trained pharmacists, nurses, and other providers are available to help 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and interpreters are available in over 200 languages.

CPCS is part of the University of California San Francisco School of Pharmacy and is responsible to the California Emergency Medical Services Authority. To learn more about CPCS, you can visit [their website](#). You can also follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or [send them an email](#).

The First 12 Months of Life: An Overview of Infant Development

The first 12 months of an infant's life are very important in many ways. Physically, infants in the first 12 months of life are learning head control, rolling over, supporting their own weight, standing, and beginning to walk. Socially, young infants are beginning to communicate. Communication starts at birth as infants begin to recognize their caregivers' voices and sounds that form language. Infants learn through their senses, so it is important for providers to talk with infants and allow them to explore their environments. Reading and singing to infants is beneficial. Other activity ideas can be found at [First 5 California](#). Infants build trust and attachments to those who care for them. Crying, laughing, and smiling are all early emotional responses. The California Department of Education has a resource available that describes these early months of an infant's life called [Ages and Stages](#).

Another important aspect of infant development in the first 12 months is the development of eating habits. Infants need to be fed on demand and some signs of hunger are: smacking or licking lips, opening and closing mouth, sucking on lips, tongue, hands, fingers, toys, or clothing and brushing hands against the face. Crying is a late sign of hunger. Infants should not be forced to eat beyond signs of being full and these can include: moving head away from feeding source, closing lips tightly, sucking slows or stops, falling asleep, and blocking mouth with hands. Bottles should never be propped, in a sleeping area, or should infants be allowed to stand or walk with a bottle. Further guidelines for feeding practices for young infants can be found in the [California Infant Feeding Guide](#) from the California Department of Public Health.

New Inspection Process Updates

The Children's Residential Inspection Process Project pilot of the comprehensive tools took place between the months of September through November. Following the pilot, the Department will review and analyze the data and information collected, including the feedback from the LPA and licensee surveys. The preliminary feedback we have received indicates that the inspections are taking longer and requiring more effort on the part of the LPA but are resulting in more thorough inspections.

We encourage all participants to complete the post-inspection surveys in order to help the Department improve the new inspection tools and provide helpful feedback.

The Department will share the findings from the pilot once available.



CBCB Guardian System

The Caregiver Background Check Bureau (CBCB) is working on the development and implementation of a new background check data system. The name of the system is Guardian and is expected to go live August 2020.

Guardian will ensure background checks are completed faster and more efficiently, while making the process easier for applicants and facilities to request exemptions. Facilities will have the ability to process clearance and exemption transfers and will also be able to manage their rosters online. Another added benefit of Guardian is the online payment capability for TrustLine and Home Care Aide Registry applicants and renewals. Users of Guardian will be able to upload documents electronically, check their exemption status and receive communications through their respective portals. A public view of exemption and clearance statuses will be available online.

For questions regarding Guardian, feel free to [send them an email](#).

Provider Information Notices (PINS)

The CRP has published three Provider Information Notices (PIN) since our last update, which are posted on the Community Care Licensing Division's (CCLD) webpage. Please remember to continue to check CCLD's webpage or subscribe for new PINs. Anyone can subscribe to be on the distribution list to receive information from any of the licensing programs (Adult and Senior Care, Child Care Advocate Program, and Children's Residential Program). To sign up, go directly to the [CCLD website](#) and click on [Receive Important Updates](#). You may also refer to [PIN 19-09-CCLD](#) for more information on how to subscribe.

New PINS Published include:

PIN 19-08-CRP Psychotropic Medication Oversight Inspections – Provides information about the Department's report that summarizes findings from inspections of specified Group Homes' and Short-Term Therapeutic Programs' psychotropic medication usage.

PIN 19-09-CRP Foster Family Agency Interim Licensing Standards (FFA ILS) Version 4 – Informs all licensed Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) and Resource Families of the requirements that have been added to Version 4 of the FFA Interim Licensing Standards and provides further clarification.

PIN 19-10-CRP Portability – Provides County Child Welfare Agencies, Probation Departments, licensed Foster Family Agencies (FFAs), and other stakeholders with answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding portability.



Are you interested in becoming part of the Community Care Licensing team?

Please apply at: [CalCareers](#)

- Information on how to apply for a State job can be found at the [Cal Career website](#).

IMPORTANT INFO AND PHONE NUMBERS

Centralized Complaint Information Bureau (CCIB)	1-844-538-8766
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Foster Care Rates	916-651-9152
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Caregiver Background Check Bureau (CBCB)	1-888-422-5669
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Foster Care Ombudsman	1-877-846-1602
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CCL Public Inquiry and Response	916-651-8848
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Technical Support Program	916-654-1541
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