

CHILD CARE LICENSING UPDATE

Child Care Licensing Program Mission:

The core mission of the Child Care Licensing Program is to ensure the health and safety of children in care. We strive to provide preventative, protective, and quality services to children in care by ensuring that licensed facilities meet established health and safety standards through monitoring facilities, providing technical assistance, and establishing partnerships with providers, parents, and the child care community.

A Note from Kevin Gaines, Deputy Director

This has been my first year as the Deputy Director for the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD), and I am already impressed at the resilience and dedication of California's child care providers. I want to personally thank every single one of you for your commitment to serving California's children. 2021 has been another trying year for the early care and education field as we continue to grapple with life in a global pandemic. However, this year has not been without significant accomplishments and progress.

- On July 1, 2021, the California Department of Education (CDE) [transitioned several child care and development programs](#) to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The transition will help create a more integrated and coordinated system of care.
- On August 30, 2021, [PIN 21-25-CCP](#) announced the Compliance and Regulatory Enforcement (CARE) Tools, aimed to strengthen and promote the health and safety of children cared for in licensed settings.
- On September 14, 2021, the [Licensed Child Care Facility Stabilization Stipends](#) were authorized to be distributed by CCLD in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On July 28, 2021, [written directives were released for lead testing in Child Care Centers \(CCCs\)](#) and information was provided on [resources for state and federal funding](#).

We have a long way to go towards stabilizing and improving the early education system, but CCLD will continue to partner with and listen to child care providers to build a better future for California.

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[Appointment of Assistant Deputy Director, Karen Chang](#)

In August 2021, Karen Chang was appointed as the new Assistant Deputy Director for child care programs within CCLD. Karen brings with her experience from a variety of programs, including the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (Cal WORKS), Child Care, Medi-Cal, and Children and Family Services. Karen also previously worked at CDSS as a Social Services Consultant and manager in the Children and Family Services Division and in the CalWORKS Division as a policy manager. Her extensive background in direct service, including ten years of experience as a children and families social worker, along with her passion for excellence in human services are a great fit for her new role. Welcome, Karen!

[Mask Campaign](#)

It remains essential for us all to continue to do our part to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. One way to do so is by continuing the use of face coverings or masks. To encourage mask-wearing, Child Care Program launched a “Mask Campaign” as a reminder of the importance of wearing a mask.

CDSS used its social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to disseminate this campaign information. This information was also made available in the Spanish and Chinese languages. Please refer to the following links and thank you for helping us spread the word!

English- [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) Español- [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) Chinese- [Facebook](#)

[PIN 21-29-CCP](#)- Face Covering Requirements and Guidance for Child Care Providers Regarding COVID-19

[Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)

As part of California’s commitment to strengthening the current child care and development system, CDSS welcomed several child care and development programs from the California Department of Education (CDE), July 1, 2021. One of those programs was the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

The CACFP is a state and federally funded Child Nutrition Program designed to provide nutritious meals and snacks to infants, children, and adults. The goal of the program is to enhance participants' health and well-being. There are four components to the CACFP: (1) **Child Care**, (2) Adult Day Care, (3) Emergency Shelter, and (4) At-risk Afterschool Care.

The Child Care component provides reimbursement to licensed and unlicensed child care centers and child care homes for healthy meals and snacks served to eligible child care centers that meet the meal pattern standards.

For more information about CACFP, visit our CDSS webpage at [The Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\)](#), or as the new CDSS CACFP webpage continues to be developed, you may also wish to refer back to the CDE [CACFP web page](#) for information.

See the [Child Care Transition Website](#) for a list of all CDE programs related to the recent CDE program transition.

Protections for Family Child Care Homes

[Senate Bill 234, Chapter 244, Statutes of 2019](#) restricted the extent to which local governments and individuals can burden or prevent the use of a residence to operate a Family Child Care Home. Those protections include, but are not limited to, requirements that Family Child Care Homes (FCCH) must be considered a residential use of property for all local ordinances and must be allowed in all types of residential settings. On August 3, 2021, the Department sent a [memo to California's planning agencies](#) to ensure that local governments are implementing SB 234's requirements. Please review this memo to know your rights as a FCCH provider and disseminate to others for awareness. In addition, please visit the [Department's website](#) for additional information about housing discrimination remedies and procedures for family child care home providers. Finally, please also see the [Office of the State Fire Marshal's Guidance for FCCHs](#).

Flu Season and COVID-19 Variants

With Flu season upon us and the continuing concerns of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to equip yourself with information and practices that can prevent illness. The [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) has excellent resources and information for [flu \(influenza\) and COVID-19](#), including up to date [information on variants](#). Remember that regular handwashing and face coverings are a significant part of germ management.

The CDC has printable PDF posters in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). It is also essential to stay aware of current guidelines and mandates within child care facilities. The local [Public Health](#) website has information on what is required in the program to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Healthy Schools Act Pest Management Training

Before reaching for the disinfectant wipes at a child care center, ensure staff are up-to-date on pesticide training. Disinfectants kill germs on surfaces, so they are classified as a type of pesticide called antimicrobial pesticides. Since 2016, the [Healthy Schools Act](#) has required anyone at child care centers using pesticides, including disinfectants, to take annual training in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and how to use pesticides safely. This requirement pertains to child care centers only, but the training could be helpful for family child care programs as well.

It is now easier than ever to cross the training requirement off the annual to-do list! There are multiple ways to take the training:

- [Take a free Department of Pesticide Regulation \(DPR\) Healthy Schools Act online course.](#)
 - Three different courses are available, and any of them satisfy the training requirement. Just read the descriptions and choose the one that best fits the facility's use of pesticides.
- [Request a free group training kit](#) for your center.
 - The online courses and training materials are provided on a convenient flash drive. Act as the trainer, show the video, and train multiple staff at once.
- [Find a certified Healthy Schools Act trainer](#) to provide in-person or virtual real-time training.
 - Trainers are certified to teach two different courses – Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Germ Management (IGM). Professional development hours can also be provided.

The DPR is the lead agency providing Healthy Schools Act compliance assistance. For more information on the Healthy Schools Act, IPM, and the proper use of disinfectants, please visit [DPR's School & Child Care IPM Program's homepage](#).

Subscribe to DPR's [Integrated Pest Management for Child Care Programs](#) email list to stay informed on IPM strategies and Healthy Schools Act requirements for child care programs. Questions? Email [DPR's Child Care IPM Program staff](#). They are always happy to help.

Child Development Series – Activities with Infants Birth-Three Months

This next series of articles on child development will focus on play activities for children through different ages and stages. The activities presented in the upcoming articles will encourage physical, social, and emotional development through play.

Tummy time is one of the earliest ways an infant will learn to play. While it is required that infants under 12 months be laid to sleep on their backs to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, it is also recommended that babies get plenty of supervised tummy time while awake. Tummy time helps develop an infant's neck and upper body muscles for better head control. Increase tummy time as infants become older and stronger. The placement of toys in front of infants will encourage reaching, rolling, and eventually crawling.

There is nothing better than hearing a baby laugh! This helps infants develop a sense of humor, which is important in communication. Make gestures and use props like mirrors and toys to make infants laugh. Sing songs, read books, use rattles, bells and other toys that make noise to engage infants. See the [Talk, Read, Sing video](#) from the Surgeon General.

See the CA Department of Education's [Ages and Stages](#) resource, the [Centers for Disease Control](#), and the [First 5 California](#) website for more activities for infants.



Maximize Children’s Achievement and Academic Success through Culture, Diversity, Race, and Equity

Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) is committed to sharing culturally responsive information to the early learning and child care workforce to become more knowledgeable in understanding and embracing diversity, race, equity, and inclusion. Over the next several quarters, CCLD will devote a section in this Update to support providers in examining and understanding culture, diversity, race, and equity and how our understanding of these topics influences our interactions with children and families.

This journey will start with the concept of implicit bias, a term used to describe attitudes toward people or associate stereotypes with them unconsciously.

There are several resources available on the topic of implicit and unconscious bias. One of the foremost speakers on unconscious and implicit bias and early childhood development is [Dr. Walter Gilliam](#) from Yale's Edward Zigler Center in Child Development and Social Policy. CCLD encourages providers to make time and invite staff to watch the video, "[Walter Gilliam: Early Childhood Expulsion and Bias - First Things First Early Childhood Summit 2019](#)". You may also wish to view a [Brazelton Institute](#)-sponsored webinar featuring [Dr. Rose Marie Allen](#) discussing "[Disrupting Implicit Bias in Early Childhood Programs](#)." These videos should provide a starting point to thinking about culture, diversity, and equity.

Monthly Theme Events

December

- National Safe Toys and Gifts Month
- December 27th- Visit the Zoo Day

January

- Chinese New Year
- National Bath Safety Month
- January 17th- Kid Inventor’s Day
- Holocaust Remembrance Day

February

- Black History Month
- February 17th- Random Acts of Kindness Day
- National Children’s Dental Health Month

Helpful Reminders and Information

- [New Provider Information Notices](#)
- [Latest Recalls from the US Consumer Product Safety Commission](#)
- [Regional Office Locations and Numbers](#)
- [Short Child Care Videos](#) - addresses common questions on licensed care for families and providers.
- [Free Online Mandated Reporter Training](#)
- [Resources for Preventing Suspension and Expulsion in Child Care Settings](#) - provides resources for dealing with challenging behaviors.
- [California Teaching Pyramid Website](#) - provides information and resources to support children's Social and Emotional Development.
- [Healthy Schools Act Training, Department of Pesticide Regulation](#)
- [California Resource for Power Outages and Fire Recovery Resources](#)
- [California Poison Control System](#)
- [Kids Specialty Plate](#)



Provider Information Webinars

Please join the monthly Provider Webinars hosted on Zoom. They are offered in English, Spanish and Chinese. Keep an eye out for the Provider Information Notices (PIN) announcing each month's dates or see the [Stakeholder Resources webpage](#).

Community Care Licensing Career Opportunities

Interested in becoming part of the Child Care Licensing team? Information on how to apply for a state job can be found at the [Cal Careers Website](#). Apply at [CalCareers](#).



Important Phone Numbers

Centralized Complaint & Information Bureau	1-844-538-8766
Child Care Advocate Program	1-916-654-1541
Child Protective Services	1-916-875-5437
California Poison Control System	1-800-222-1222
Care Provider Management Bureau	1-888-422-5669
CA Child Care Resource and Referral Network	1-415-882-0234

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To subscribe to important updates from the Child Care Licensing Program, scan the QR code below or visit the [Child Care Website](#).



The Child Care Quarterly Update is a publication of the CCLD Child Care Program and Technical Assistance and Advocacy Bureau. To provide feedback or suggest articles, email childcaretechnicalsupport@dss.ca.gov.