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The Latest from Child Care Licensing

Fall/Winter 2014 Edition

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LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Our previous newsletters have outlined the requirements of Schedule G. In this edition we will focus on language development and provide you with some examples of how you can encourage language development in your child care program.

What is language development?

Language development is all about learning words. Language also helps us to think about ourselves and the world around us.

Language development includes:

- Speaking and listening
- Understanding written words

Children learn language over time. Infants first learn to understand words, then they begin to speak. Reading and writing come later. Children learn language by being surrounded with language.

Speaking and Listening

These are some examples of activities which help children learn about spoken language:

- Reading a book out loud to children
- Asking children to help tell a story using puppets, felt board pieces or play figures
- Telling young children the names of objects and toys shown to them
- Asking children to tell something about their weekend
- Ask children to bring in a special object to show and tell others about
- Help children make and use home-made “telephones”
- Ask children to tell a different ending to a well-known story (e.g. If Goldilocks had not fallen asleep, where do you think the three bears would have found her?)
- Describe a hidden picture to children who must try to draw it

Remember that some children may be shy about speaking in front of others. Allow children to take part in activities when they feel ready.

Understanding Written Words

- These are some activities which help children to understand written words:
- Sharing books with children
- Helping children put together a picture book
- Post a daycare schedule that makes use of words and pictures for children to look at
- Ask children to talk about their drawings and write some of their words on the picture
- Give children crayons and pencils to use. Learning to hold crayons and pencils prepares a young child for future writing
- Help children to write their name
- Set up a letter writing table with paper, envelopes, post cards and play stamps for children to use
- Place shopping lists in a role-play area
- Write down ideas that children talk about in group discussions on a large board
- Show children a number of objects placed on a tray. Cover them with a cloth and ask children to write or draw all the objects they remember
- Help children make cards for their family
- Older children can produce a “daycare newspaper” to share special events and activities with parents

In order to encourage children to read, it is important to provide a range of books which interest all children and a comfortable area for children to enjoy books.



The following passage provides examples of language development and was completed by Jennifer Smyth, a licensed childcare operator in the northwest. Jennifer participated in the Art of Human Learning, an exhibit in Terrace, BC.



“I recently had the opportunity to present two pieces into The Art of Human Learning exhibit at our local art gallery and chose a short learning story with extended activities that took place after the observations of my little friends’ interests.”



“Documentation is a fun and self expressive way for child care providers to show interests and learning outcomes of the children we provide care for. It does however take time to put these little gems together and I find that finding the time to do this type of documentation tricky. Providers can extend individual learning stories by adding children’s words and expressing the learning outcomes that are taking place at that time.”



“This is the second piece that the children and I presented. It is the moments of all the children in care. It is a way that I can show the families what we do daily and still be fully present during our busy days. It still takes some time but it is a way I can involve the children by picking out a picture of an activity that they were interested in. We discuss how we felt, what we did, if we would like to do it again and how we could do it differently. I do love individual learning stories and have a more detailed list of learning outcomes posted on a photo wall for the parents who are curious about what exactly their children are learning during their play. I find it tough to just pick one story as so many take place in a day!”

“I found this little poem on a child care blog that I frequently visit and found it to be the perfect way to express how I feel about my days spent with the children!”

By Jennifer Smyth





Early Childhood Educator Registry Terminology Change from Licence to Practice to Certificate

The Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Registry is the provincial body responsible for certification of individuals who qualify for an Early Childhood Educator (ECE) or an Early Childhood Educator Assistant (ECEA) Certificate. To ensure consistency with the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* (CCALA) and the Child Care Licensing Regulation (CCLR), the ECE Registry will be changing the term 'licence to practice' to 'certificate' effective Fall 2014.

Individuals who currently hold a licence to practice will not have to replace that document with a new certificate. A current licence to practice will remain valid until its expiry, and a certificate will be issued upon renewal.

Licensing Officers, potential employers and the public are encouraged to continue using the ECE Registry's certification validation webpage to confirm the status of an ECEs and ECEAs certification.

Educational institutions, Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) programs, Licensing Officers, and others who are communicating with ECEs and ECEAs (e.g. those offering professional development opportunities) are asked to move to the terminology 'certificate' and 'certification' when referring to the credentials required to work in the field of ECE.

For information on the ECE Registry, application, renewal requirements, and educational information, please refer to the ECE Registry website at <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/ece/index.htm>.

For more information, or for questions, please contact the ECE Registry at:

Early Childhood Educator Registry
Ministry of Children and Family Development
PO Box 9965 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9R4

Telephone: 250 356-6501
Toll-free: 1 888 338-6622
E-mail: ECERegistry@gov.bc.ca

Criminal Records Review Program Sharing Form

Did you know? If you have completed a criminal record check through the Criminal Record Review Program (CCRP) in the last 5 years and wish to share the results with another organization you can complete the sharing form found on the CCRP website. When you use the sharing form your Licensing Officer may not be alerted as to what Facility the Criminal Record Letter belong to. Please contact your Licensing Officer when using the sharing form so they can watch for your results letter.

Contact the BC Criminal Record Checks website at <http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/criminal-records-review> to learn how the sharing program works or contact your Licensing Officer for more information.

When Jack Frost Comes Nipping

Winter is a time for children to build snow castles, toboggan, and ice skate. Unfortunately, along with winter weather there is a risk of frostbite, hypothermia and fever.

As a caregiver, make sure the child dresses in warm layers for winter activities and does not stay in the cold for prolonged periods.

If a child shows any symptoms throughout the winter season of either frostbite or hypothermia follow these safety tips. If symptoms persist, seek proper medical aid for the child.

FROSTBITE is an inflammation of the skin from extreme cold. If blisters form, do not break them but do protect them with a loose dressing.

| Symptoms: | Do Not: | Do: |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affected area of skin is whiter than the surrounding area Pain or sting is felt, followed by numbness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rub frostbitten areas Apply strong heat, water or snow directly to the skin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warm the area in your hands or an armpit For more severe frostbite, place area in the warm (not hot) water until color returns Serve warm snack like soup or hot chocolate |

As the frost bitten area “thaws,” the child will feel pain or a burning sensation. Severe Frostbite without medical care could damage the child’s toes and fingers.

HYPOTHERMIA occurs when a child is exposed to cold air, cool wind, wet clothing or prolonged immersion in water that leads to a drop in temperature below normal.

| Symptoms: | Do: | Hypothermia could be fatal if the child experiences any of the following: |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uncontrollable shivering Numbness in hands and feet | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put child in a dry, warm place Remove all wet clothing; dress in dry clothes and wrap in blankets Cover the head and neck Apply mild heat to armpits and groin, avoid direct contact with the skin If the child is fully conscious and can swallow, give child a warm sweet, non-alcoholic liquid. Donate heat to child by removing your upper clothing and huddle with the child under blankets or a sleeping bag. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of coordination Fumbling hands Slurred speech Memory lapse Blurred vision Shivering stops Muscles become stiff Unconsciousness |

Infants will show the following signs of mottled cheeks, no crying and weak sucking.

If hypothermia becomes life threatening, call an ambulance immediately.

FEVER is the body’s defence mechanism at work. Babies younger than six months old should see a doctor when they have a fever. Older children with fever who seem otherwise well and are drinking enough liquid can be treated at home. However, they should see a Dr. if the fever lasts more than 48 hours. Normal body temperature is 37 degrees Celsius or 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit.

How to take a temperature with a digital thermometer (glass mercury thermometers are not recommended):

| Under six years old: | Above six years old: | To reduce a fever: |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the arm Place silver end of thermometer in the child’s armpit Hold arm firmly against side Keep thermometer in place for at least 3 minutes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take temperature by mouth Place silver medal end of the thermometer under the child’s tongue for 3-4 minutes or until is “beeps” Caution the child to keep lips closed without biting on the thermometer | <p>Remove excess clothing and covers Give the child water, diluted juice or “flat” soft drinks Acetaminophen is the best medication for a fever. Unless the Dr. says otherwise, parents can give the dose recommended on the package until the child’s temperature comes down.</p> |

Make sure winter is a safe, happy and healthy season for you and the children.

WEST AFRICAN EBOLA OUTBREAK

Northern Health has not yet identified any cases of Ebola in the region.

Even so, it is important for Northern Health staff to be informed about Ebola.

We would like to draw your attention to the resources available, including Ebola resources and links compiled by Northern Health. Please direct your questions and comments to your manager or to email address ebola.questions@northernhealth.ca.

ENTEROVIRUS D68 (EV-D68) is a rare but known non-polio enterovirus that causes mild to severe respiratory illness.

How does the virus spread?

Since EV-D68 causes respiratory illness, the virus can be found in an infected person's respiratory secretions, such as saliva, nasal mucus, or sputum. EV-D68 likely spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or touches a surface that is then touched by others.

Recently, several clusters of severe respiratory illness in hospitalized children due to EV-D68 infection have been found in the United States and Canada. Cases have been reported from all Regional Health Authorities in B.C. In most people, the risk of severe illness is low, however, people of all ages with underlying conditions, particularly asthma, may experience severe complications.

How can I protect myself?

You can help prevent yourself from getting and spreading EV-D68 and other respiratory illnesses by following these steps:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. See Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact such as kissing, hugging, and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or shirt sleeve, not your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.

Please visit this link for answers to many questions you may have:

http://www.bccdc.ca/NR/rdonlyres/4833E15F-6A71-4AFC-A2F4-33B390D8DB21/0/EPI_FAQ_Enterovirus_20141017.pdf

<http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/EV-D68.html>





Hand Washing for Parents and Children

Wash your hands often to keep yourself and others healthy. Hand washing is the most important thing you can do to help stop the spread of germs that cause illnesses such as colds, the flu, diarrhea, or vomiting.

Why is hand washing so important?

Washing your hands and your child's hands is the best way to stop the spread of germs. Viruses can live on hard surfaces for up to 2 days and on hands for up to 5 minutes. When you wash your hands, you help clean them and remove the germs that cause illness.

We pick up germs on our hands from touching people or things around us. Raw foods, pets and many other objects in our daily lives carry germs. Wiping your child's nose or changing a diaper is a common way to get germs on your hands. You cannot avoid contacting germs, but you can reduce the chance of infecting yourself and others by knowing when to wash your hands.

How can you wash your hands?

1. Remove rings or other jewelry on the hands and wrists.
2. Wet your hands with warm water.
3. Wash all parts of your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and rub hands together to create lather. To help children wash their hands, sing the ABC song.
4. Rinse hands well under warm running water.
5. Dry hands with a clean cloth or paper towel.
6. Use the towel to turn off the tap and open the door when you leave if you are in a public restroom.

7. You may use hand lotion after you wash your hands.

You can also clean your hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizers. After applying the gel or foam rub your hands together until it is dry. This is an easy way to clean hands as long as your hands are not visibly dirty. Wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

How can you wash your baby's hands?

1. Wash with soap and a warm, wet, fresh towel, and use either a cloth or paper towel.
2. Rinse well with another fresh, warm, wet towel.
3. Dry well.

When should parents wash their hands?

You should wash your hands before or after you take part in activities that increase your risk of getting or spreading germs.

You should wash your hands before you do the following:

- Prepare or eat food
- Feed a baby or child, including mothers who breastfeed
- Give a child medicine

You should wash your hands after you do the following:

- Change a diaper
- Take care of a sick child
- Wipe your child's nose
- Help a child use the toilet
- Use the toilet yourself

- Handle raw food such as meats or poultry
- Blow your nose
- Touch pets or animals
- Clean pet cages or litter boxes

When should children wash their hands?

Children should wash their hands before they do the following:

- Eat or handle food

Children should wash their hands after they do the following:

- Use the toilet
- Blow their nose
- Play outdoors
- Play with pets or animals

Source: Canadian Paediatric Society
 (www.caringforkids.cps.ca)
 Adapted with permission.

For more HealthLinkBC File topics, visit www.HealthLinkBC.ca/healthfiles or your local public health unit.

Click on www.HealthlinkBC.ca or call 8-1-1 for non-emergency health information and services in B.C.

For deaf and hearing-impaired assistance, call 7-1-1 in B.C.

Translation services are available in more than 130 languages on request.



Websites:

NH Speech and Language Program
<http://www.northernhealth.ca/YourHealth/PublicHealth/SpeechandLanguageProgram.aspx>

Work Safe BC
<http://www2.worksafebc.com/Topics/BullyingAndHarassment/Resources.asp?reportID=37260>

Schedule D - Approved Early Childhood Education Institutions
http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/332_2007#ScheduleD

Health Link BC
<http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/servicesresources/healthlinkbcfiles/>

Let's Wash Our Hands!

Whooshy washy!
Wet our hands
Under running water

Add some soap and
Rub them hard
Don't miss any part!

Between our fingers
Under the nails
Rid germs without fail

Front and back
And round the wrist
No germs will be missed!

They may hide
But we shall seek
So we will not fall sick!

Splishy splashy
Bye bye germs
Down the drain they squirm

With clean towels
We dry our hands
Now let's show our friends!



Palm to palm



Between fingers



Back of hands



Base of thumbs



Back of fingers



Fingernails



Wrists



Rinse and wipe

Remember to wash our hands:



After using the toilet



After sneezing or coughing



After playing with pets



After sports or playing outside



Before eating