



The Licensing Link

January — March 2019

Dakota County Social Services

Inside this issue:

Outdoor Winter Play	2
Exits in Winter	2
Cul-de-Sac Reminder	3
Correction Orders	3
Training Documentation	3
Parent Aware Information Sessions	4
Staff Directory	5
Quiz	6

Update—Enhanced Background Studies

Quick review:

In 2017 and 2018 the Minnesota legislature made changes to state law that requires enhanced background studies for all licensed child care programs. The state of Minnesota made these changes to comply with federal law. The enhanced background study includes a fingerprint-based search for all adults (and minors receiving compensation for assisting in a program). The entity conducting these background studies changed from local county government to DHS.

The Update:

As of 01/01/2019, enhanced background studies have been implemented. DHS will be assigning counties roll-out dates during which time DHS will increase fingerprint resources in our area. DHS also has a grant to cover the cost of the study for existing providers, staff and family members during our roll-out period. The enhanced background studies are considered good for five years. DHS has confirmed with us that all *existing* background studies are considered valid until our roll-out period. However, if you need to initiate a *new* background study (examples: new substitute, new household member, child turning 13 years old), these studies need to now be completed using the new enhanced background study process. Please contact your licensor and we will help you get the process going. This is new for all of us and we're working hard to ensure clarity for providers. We will continue to keep you updated as we confirm dates and have more information.

An Updated Look for your License Certificate

You may have noticed that your license looks a little different when it arrives in the mail from DHS. Never fear! This is still your legal license certificate. DHS informed us that due to a system change, the license certificate is currently being printed on white paper and does not include the green border. The license still carries the Minnesota seal for authenticity and it is 100% valid.

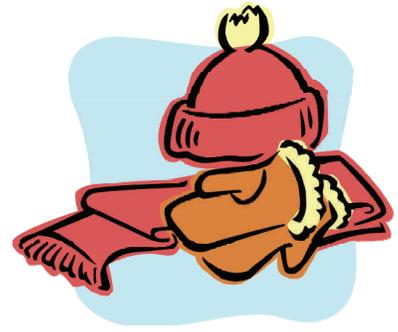


Outdoor Winter Play

We all do better when we get outdoors every day—kids and adults!

Four Benefits of Outdoor Play:

- 1) Fresh air! Being outside helps us escape the germs and bugs that get brought into the house and circulated in the closed-air environment. This recirculation through the air vents allows germs to pass more easily from one person to another. Getting outside gives everyone the chance to breathe fresh air and reduces the chance of infection.
- 2) Exercise! Large muscle groups get more use walking through the snow. Children grow stronger and sleep better. Getting outside to run, jump, yell and wiggle allows everyone to work off extra energy and keep everyone in balance.
- 3) New ideas! Winter outdoor play offers a whole new way of looking at the world, especially in Minnesota. There are the tried and true activities—sledding, building a snow fort, creating a snowman—we can only do in winter. Plus, there’s a host of fun ways to incorporate new activities—mix water and food coloring in squeeze bottles and paint the snow, blow bubbles and watch them freeze in the air, pack snow on a tray and paint with water colors, collect items for a winter-themed craft (pine cones, leaves, sticks), identify animal tracks, feed the birds.
- 4) Vitamin D! Vitamin D helps children build strong bones, helps adults maintain bone density, plus lots more. Vitamin D is known as the sunshine vitamin as it’s produced when our skin is exposed to sunlight. Living so far north with our dark winter days naturally leads to less sun exposure. Getting outside helps us get this much needed vitamin.



Remember, child care providers are required to give daily opportunities for outdoor play, weather permitting. Wondering if the weather is ok to go outside? Check out the Child Care Weather Watch chart:

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/HealthFamily/ChildCare/Providing/Documents/WeatherChart.pdf>



Winter Reminder – Keep an Eye on Your Exits

Do you have a back door that gets blocked with snow? Do your windows stick if the weather is cold? Do you have a basement egress window that gets filled or covered with snow and ice? December, January and February are the busiest months for house fires – people are inside more, people are cooking more and there’s an increased use of heating appliances. Just a reminder to keep an eye on all of the exits you use for child care and ensure they’re free and clear of snow and debris and that they can be used if an emergency would occur. Want to get the kids involved? Change up for fire drill this month and include an exit check!

Rule Reminder

(A quick refresher on child care rules and statute)

You probably know that children in care aren't allowed to play in streets...but did you know this also applies to cul-de-sacs? DHS has repeatedly clarified for us that a cul-de-sac is by definition a road and therefore kids in care are not allowed to play in them. We know it's tempting, especially this time of year with the big piles of snow in the center. However, every year we do receive complaints from drivers who are concerned about avoiding little ones at play. Enjoy being outside with the kids, just ensure everyone stays out of the roads.

(What rule is it? 9502.0425 Physical Environment, Subp. 2. Outdoor play space)

Did you know? If you're issued a correction order and you feel it's been issued in error, you have the legal right to request reconsideration from DHS. Information on how to do this is included on the correction order for you. Your request for reconsideration goes directly to DHS. If DHS feels we have issued the correction order in error, they will overturn it and it's then no longer a part of your record.

Training Corner

Training Tips and Reminders to Keep You in the Know!

Ever wonder what's the easiest way to provide your licensor with training documentation? It's the DHS Licensing Learning Record from the Develop website. The DHS Licensing Learning Record contains all the info we need to verify your training. You can find the DHS Licensing Learning Record on the Develop site. It will be towards the bottom of your Summary page (the page that pops up when you first log onto Develop) under the header "Application Records." Having it to us beforehand with your relicensing paperwork or ready in your program for your visit is convenient for us, but more importantly, it saves you time!

Upcoming Parent Aware Information Sessions

Curious about Parent Aware?

Parent Aware staff are holding information sessions in Dakota County.

Information Session Dates

- Wednesday, April 17, 2019 6:30—8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 7, 2019 6:30—8:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 20, 2019 6:30—8:00 p.m.

Location

360 Communities

501 State Hwy 13
Suite 102
Burnsville, MN 55337

For more information or to RSVP, contact Mischelle Ulrich

Phone: 952.985.4045

Email: mulrich@360communities.org

More information can also be found on the Parent Aware website:

<http://parentaware.org/programs/>



**Play is often talked about as if it
were a relief from serious learning.**

**But for children, play is serious
learning.**

**Play is really
the work of
childhood.**



Fred Rogers



We want to thank ABC Toy Zone for all of their generous gifts to our providers. Unfortunately, there will not be a prize drawing this quarter. We'll keep you updated as new drawing opportunities arise!



DHS Provider Page

If you haven't checked it out already, please visit the DHS provider webpage at [Licensed Family Child Care](#). This would be a good page to save to your favorites!

DHS's provider page has lots of helpful information directly from the department, such as: news and updates, forms, information on background studies, grant/scholarship information and new legislative changes.



Dakota County Child Care Licensing Directory
Dakota County Social Services

<http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/healthfamily/childcare/providing>

14955 Galaxie Avenue | Apple Valley, MN 55124

Phone: (952) 891-7400 | Fax: (952) 891-7473

Supervisor: Warren Chaffee	warren.chaffee@co.dakota.mn.us	952-891-7462	
Michelle Engquist	michelle.engquist@co.dakota.mn.us	952-891-7481	Hampton, Mendota Heights, Northfield, Randolph, South St. Paul, Vermillion
Susan Erickson	susan.erickson@co.dakota.mn.us	952-891-7985	Farmington, Lakeville R—Z
Kim Leipold	kim.leipold@co.dakota.mn.us	952-891-7380	Apple Valley, Lakeville A—Q, churches & small groups
Jenna Lyons	jenna.lyons@co.dakota.mn.us	952-891-7362	Eagan, Inver Grove Heights
Amy Novak	amy.novak@co.dakota.mn.us	952-891-7841	Burnsville R—Z, Rosemount
Jolene Swan	jolene.swan@co.dakota.mn.us	952-891-7361	Burnsville A—Q, Hastings, West St. Paul

Licensing Link Quiz: January – April 2019

****Complete for 1 hour of training credit!****

Name: _____

Licensing Worker: _____

1. Regarding upcoming enhanced background studies, DHS has a grant that will cover the cost for _____ providers, staff and family members during our roll-out period.

2. The Minnesota state legislature made changes to Minnesota law that requires enhanced background studies to comply with _____ law.

3. T or F Children in care can play in a cul-de-sac.

4. T or F Your license from DHS is still considered 100% valid even if it doesn't have a green border on it.

5. Where can you find information on how to request reconsideration of a correction order?

6. If you request reconsider of a correction order, this request goes directly to _____.

7. The _____ is the easiest way to provide training documentation to your licensor.

8. Your DHS Licensing Learning Record can be found on the _____ website.

9. What are the busiest months for house fires?

10. According to Mr. Rogers, what is really the work of childhood?