



The Licensing Link

Summer 2021

Dakota County Social Services

Warren Chaffee's Retirement

After 41 years of dedicated service to Dakota County, Warren Chaffee retired on July 30th. We cannot thank him enough for the leadership, wisdom, and heart he shared with us over the last eight years. Please see his message to all of you below. Susan Erickson (licensor for Farmington and Lakeville) will serve as interim supervisor for the unit. Don't hesitate to reach out to Susan with any questions or concerns. She can be reached by phone at (952) 891-7985 or email at Susan.Erickson@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US.

Greetings to you,

Needless to say it has been quite the past eighteen months as you have dealt with personal, family and professional challenges from many different directions. However, you have persisted and continued to provide critically needed, essential care to the children in your programs and support for their families. For this, I truly want to acknowledge your sacrifices and efforts during this time. The world is beginning to open again and the new normal, whatever that becomes, will still rely on your commitment to quality family child care. I know our partnership with you, as an anchor to moving forward, will continue to serve Dakota County families very well.

For me, the next new normal will be quite different than my last forty-one years working for Dakota County, with the last eight years serving as the supervisor of the licensing unit. I am retiring July 30th and this last tour of duty has been the most enjoyable of my career. Working with such an unbelievable group of licensors has been wonderful. However, the greatest satisfaction has been for me to learn about your work individually and as a group. It has been an honor to witness the dedication and care you bring to your profession. I want to thank you for your service and wish each of you well in the coming year and years.

With Best Wishes,

Warren Chaffee

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Stay Tuned – Background Studies!

We have not heard any official news from DHS about the return of the Enhanced Background Study rollout. But! We have heard rumblings. If your program has not yet gone through the Enhanced Background Study process (AKA fingerprinting), keep a lookout for emails from us. We will keep you updated as we learn more.

Return to In-Person Visits

DHS has instructed all counties to return to full, unannounced in-person visits as of August 30, 2021. A short background: The Governor's Peacetime Emergency included waivers that allowed licensors to conduct scheduled, virtual visits. With the end of the Peacetime Emergency, these waivers also came to an end. After a brief sunset period, we are now required to return to unannounced in-person visits on August 30, 2021.

Safety remains our upmost concern for all involved. Expect the following safety measures to occur:

- Masks are required for all county staff when we are working in a county building or an indoor community setting (this includes providers' homes).
- County staff are instructed to request people receiving services wear a mask when meeting indoors.
- All county staff are required to complete a COVID-19 health screening prior to working in county buildings and community settings.
- Licensors may attempt to work with you to limit the amount of time in your home.

Please reach out and speak to your licensor with any concerns you may have.

Reminder – COVID Resources

COVID, the delta variant and the return to school are on all our minds. Here is a quick reminder of who to contact if you have general health related COVID questions associated with your program or if you have a positive case.

- For specific health-related questions regarding your child care, email the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) at health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us.
- If you are notified of a **lab-confirmed** case of COVID-19 in your program, contact MDH at health.schoolcc.followup@state.mn.us or report a positive case to MDH by completing a RedCap survey - <https://redcap.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=KKWLDH3ARC>.

Rule Reminder – Fridge Temp

(A quick reminder on child care rules and statute)

Did you know there is a maximum refrigerator temperature identified in the child care rule? To help ensure food safety, food requiring refrigeration is to be maintained at no more than 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

What rule is it? 9502.0445 Water, Food and Nutrition, Subp. 4 (B) Food Safety

[Child Care Rule 9502.0445 Water, Food and Nutrition Safety](#)

Data Privacy Reminder

Licensing has had an influx of data privacy questions from providers, parents and staff. Many of these questions have involved COVID diagnoses or vaccination status, while others have involved child injuries or behaviors. A quick reminder that a provider cannot disclose any records on children in care to any persons other than the parents of the child, licensing, or, in case of an emergency, medical or public safety persons (9502.0345, Subp. 2. Data Privacy.) Data privacy discussions can be challenging. Licensing can help walk you through any specific questions or scenarios as it pertains to licensing requirements.

Important Training Reminder - Health and Safety I and II for Family Child Care Training

2017 legislation requires license holders and adult caregivers (adult caregiver = those caring for children more than 500 hours per year) to complete Health and Safety I and II training every 5 years. A few tips about these trainings:

- ⇒ Both Health and Safety I and II for Family Child Care can be found on Develop
- ⇒ Classes can be taken online or in person
- ⇒ Be careful not to accidentally take a class for child care centers (different laws apply to centers). Register for classes identified as “Family Child Care” in the title.
- ⇒ The classes do not build on each other, so you can take Health and Safety II for Family Child Care *before* Health and Safety I for Family Child Care.
- ⇒ If you were a license holder in 2017, both classes are required before your license expiration date in 2022
- ⇒ If you were licensed after 2017, you have 5 years from your license date to complete the classes
- ⇒ Both classes also meet the Active Supervision training requirement
- ⇒ Both classes are currently free online on Develop!

(Minn. Stat. 245A.50, subd. 9.)



Dakota County Family Child Care Association

Our Future is in Our Hands

JOIN US!

- Annual \$40 membership includes free on-line training
- Provider Directory Listing
- Mentorship Program
- Bi-Monthly Newsletter
- Networking and Support



We Are **LOOKing** For You!

- ◆ We offer FREE training options to our members. Training information and registration is available on our website. A Zoom tutorial is also available. Non-member training registration is available with on-line payment.
- ◆ **New providers receive a free one-year membership!**
- ◆ Click the link below for the on-line membership form.

JOIN NOW

For more information, please visit www.dcfcca.org or call (952) 985-3495.



Mandated Reporter Training for Those Who Work with Children

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

*Presented by Dakota County Children and Family Services
and the Dakota County Attorney's Office*

To register for this free event, [CLICK HERE](#)

What is a mandated reporter?

Mandated reporters are people whose positions require them to report suspected child abuse or neglect to social services or law enforcement. Childcare professionals, social workers, teachers, physicians, and a number of other professionals who work with children and families are mandated reporters under Minnesota law.

Do I have to go to this training? Is it required?

No. Dakota County offers this training periodically for people who are mandated reporters, but mandated reporters are not required to attend. Although not required, you are encouraged to attend to learn how to help children you are in contact with, as well as what is legally required of you.

What does the training cover?

- Definitions of mandated reporter and neglect/abuse as it relates to child maltreatment
- Legal requirements of a mandated reporter
- Process of making a child protection report to Social Services
- What happens at Social Services after a report is received

Will certificates of attendance be offered?

Yes, certificates will be provided for all registered attendees.

Questions?

**Contact Laura Bartsch, Intake
Supervisor or Lawrence Dickens,
Investigation Supervisor at:**

952-891-7400

Transition Tips to Help Kids Get Ready for Kindergarten

Kindergarten is a big life change for all kids. And what's exciting for some, can be frightening for others. No matter where on the spectrum of emotions your rising kindergarteners are, here are some tips to help ease the transition and set them up for success in the new school year.

1. Practice asking for help. Kids may be nervous asking for help with personal things such as going to the bathroom or getting ready to leave at the end of the day. Teach that it is always ok to ask for help when needed and not to feel guilty or ashamed. Have kids practice asking for help – build this skill so kids have the confidence to use it when needed.
2. Share how you felt when you went to kindergarten—and what made you feel better and how it all turned out okay.
3. Enlist the older kids! Is there a school-ager in your program who had a blast in kindergarten? Have him or her share how fun it can be and all the fun activities new kindergarteners have to look forward to.
4. Teach good coping skills. Practice deep breathing exercises when a child feels overwhelmed. Spend time talking with children and listening to how they feel – also a great self-esteem builder because we all like to feel heard.
5. Practice the teacher's name. Help your rising kindergartener by helping him or her learn and pronounce their new teacher's name. They will feel confident and proud the first day of class.
6. Encourage self-care skills. Being able to wash hands, use the bathroom successfully, dress, zip up a jacket, and so on not only increases a child's self-esteem; feeling secure about these skills will give him/her one less thing to worry about in kindergarten.
7. Read books about starting kindergarten. Some good choices are *The Night Before Kindergarten* (Reading Railroad Books) Paperback, by illustrators Natasha Wing and Julie Durrel; *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten*, written by Joseph Slate and illustrated by Ashley Wolff; *Kindergarten Rocks!* by Katie Davis; *Look out Kindergarten, Here I Come!* by Nancy Carlson; and *I Am Too Absolutely Small for School (Charlie and Lola)*, by Lauren Child.

(adapted from Harvard Health Publishing, Harvard Medical School)



Sidewalk Chalk Idea

Thanks Angela Mendez for the fun example of sidewalk chalk! What a great idea to work with shape, pattern and color. Summer is prime time for sidewalk chalk! If you and your kids have fun, creative examples, send them our way! We'd love to share them in our next newsletter. Photos can be emailed to:

Childcare@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US

Licensing Link: Summer 2021 Quiz

(Return this quiz to your licensor via mail or email for one hour of training credit!)

Name: _____

Licensing Worker: _____

1. The temperature of your refrigerator should be no more than _____ degrees Fahrenheit.
2. T or F In-person, unannounced visits are required to resume August 30, 2021.
3. T or F Health and Safety I and II for Family Child Care are required every 5 years for license holders.
4. Both Health and Safety I and II for Family Child Care meet the _____ training requirement.
5. Susan Erickson is the interim supervisor. Susan can be reached by phone at _____.
6. T or F The Dakota County Family Child Care Association offers free trainings to members.
7. T or F Dakota County staff are required to wear a mask when working in a county building or an indoor community setting.
8. List three ways you can help prepare a child for kindergarten:
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)

DAKOTA COUNTY CHILD CARE LICENSING DIRECTORY

Interim Supervisor:	susan.erickson@co.dakota.mn.us	952-891-7985	
Demetria Costa	demetria.costa@co.dakota.mn.us	952-891-7485	Eagan, Inver Grove Heights
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
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

Dakota County Social Services

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

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Apple Valley, MN 55124

Phone: (952) 891-7400

Fax: (952) 891-7473