



# LICENSING LINK



Scott County  
Child Care Licensing

Winter March, 2011

## Safety Rules for Trampolines

School will soon be out and it will be a time for fun and play for children. Children will be spending more time outside using outdoor equipment. As a provider, you need to make sure that your outdoor equipment is in good condition and make sure children are following the safety rules for the equipments. Summer is peak season for trampoline use. Although Licensing Rules does not prohibit the use of trampolines, providers need to consider all of the safety and risk factors.

Here are just a few tips and reminders when using a trampoline as an activity for your daycare children.

- Do not use a ladder with the trampoline. Ladders placed next to a trampoline are dangerous. If child is too small to climb on the trampoline without a ladder, they may be too small to jump safely. Trampolines over 20 inches tall are **not** recommended for use by children under 6 years of age.
- An adult should always supervise when a child is on a trampoline.
- Only one child at a time on the trampoline.
- The trampoline should be maintained in good condition, with a clearance of 5 feet around the edge.
- Parents must sign a permission form allowing their child to use the trampoline.
- There is a right way and wrong way to jump on and jump off the trampoline.
- Do not wear socks when jumping - they can cause you to slip.
- Do not let another child sit on the trampoline while waiting their turn.

It is always important to follow the manufacturer safety guidelines. Providers need to think about their liability if daycare children are allowed to use a trampoline. Do you have insurance that would cover an injury if one would occur? We all want children to have a safe, fun summer and enjoy outdoor activities.

**A trampoline used properly and sensibly is excellent recreation for all ages. It is also a completely safe and fun way to stay fit when used properly.**

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## Day Care Provider Faces Criminal Charge

Excerpt taken from Mankato Free Press by Dan Nienaber  
Free Press Staff Writer

The following article was in the Mankato Free press dated January 11, 2011. The event that happened at daycare was alarming but the outcome of that event was even more alarming. Per reporter, a day care provider who was hoping she had paid the price for letting a **toddler escape** from her home learned that she was facing a criminal charge. "I thought this was going to be over," Rosemary Marquette said after she was told about the gross misdemeanor child neglect or endangerment charge. "This is horrible. It's an absolute nightmare."

Ryker Hacker was not quite two years old when he left Marquette's home day care the morning of November 4. Marquette's house is across the street from Franklin Elementary. Hacker was stopped about three blocks away after a bus driver watched him run across Madison Avenue. **Hacker's mother, Jackie Downing, has been requesting criminal charges be filed against Marquette. The incident resulted in Marquette losing her day care license temporarily. She was required to pay a fine and make safety changes to her home before she was allowed to provide day care again.**

Downing said she was angry when she learned Marquette was back in business. Police reports said Marquette failed to call 911 even though Hacker had been missing at least 45 minutes. "I am happy that something is being done for the victim's side." Downing said. "It is pretty sad that she already has her license back when they are charging her criminally. I am glad. I am very, very glad. I can only hope this doesn't happen to anyone else."

**Tom Copeland, a Twin Cities attorney who provides legal training to home day care providers, said it is unusual for a provider to face criminal charges when child is not hurt. He talked to Marquette after the incident happened and was surprised to hear Hacker left another day care in Nicollet the following day. That day care, which is operated in a church, also was closed temporarily and fined. No criminal charges have been filed.**

Young children also leave their homes, Copeland added. Police aren't always called in those cases. He believes, statistically, children are safer in a day care than they are at home. "It seems pretty remarkable to me that the parent would take these kinds of steps knowing the child's behavior," Copeland said. "I would assume, if there is a negative result from the criminal charge, (Marquette) could lose her license. This is a much more serious thing." Marquette said it was the first day Hacker had been at her day care, so she did not know his habits. She did not call 911, she said, because she was looking for him. "What would a parent do?" she said. "They would look throughout their house first, then the backyard or whatever, before they picked up the phone and called 911. "I don't understand this. I understand their anger, definitely. But this is hard for me, being they're people I don't even know."

**Per child care licensing Rule 9502.0315 subp. 29a "Supervision" means a caregiver being within sight or hearing of an infant, toddler, or preschooler at all times so that the caregiver is capable of intervening to protect the health and safety of the child. For the school age child, it means a caregiver being available for assistance and care so that the child's health and safety is protected.**

# HOW TO PREVENT CAR SEAT INJURIES

Excerpt taken from WebMD Magazine

Car seats are supposed to protect infants from injury during a traffic accident, but they **can increase the risk of injury when used inappropriately outside of the car, such as in the home or in a shopping cart**, according to a new study. New research shows that almost 9,000 infants are sent to the emergency room each year due to neck and head injuries resulting from car seat related injuries that actually occurred outside the vehicle. Based on an analysis of data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the researchers found that between 2003 and 2007 an estimated 43,562 babies nationwide went to the emergency room for car seat related injuries that were not due to car accidents. Approximately 85% of those injuries occurred during falls-either when the baby fell out of the car seat because they were no longer strapped in their car seats or when the whole car seat with baby inside fell from an elevated surface, like a shopping cart or a table. Slightly more than 8% of the 2,000 infants had to be admitted to the hospital. Three of the infants died.

The researchers also discovered that the most vulnerable time for car seat injuries is when babies are 4 months and younger because parents are under the assumption that babies cannot move, since they have yet to develop good coordination. Parents have a false sense of security believing that baby that young cannot move so they are safe in car seat but even at that young age, babies can wiggle enough to slide right out of the seat. If you need to take your baby in his car seat out of the car when he is asleep, be sure to keep him strapped in and leave the car seat on the floor but once in the home, move baby to safer place- to crib.

**Per licensing Rule 9502.0425 subp. 9 infant must sleep in approved crib or port-a-crib, never on carpet, swing, car seat or in bed.**



## ANOTHER FREE IMPORTANT TRAINING

### I Never Thought My Child Would Do That !!!!!

Scott County Child Care Licensing is offering again this two hour class of free training called "I Never Thought My Child Would Do That" due to good response received from the providers who attended this training. This training will cover what happens if a daycare child makes allegations of sexual abuse against your own child. The training will review the investigation process and the impact it could cause on your business and your family. It will also include strategies on how to reduce the risks of this happening in your home. **The training will be held on Monday, April 11, 2011 from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Scott County Government Center** (signs will be posted to direct you to the room). To register, please call 952-445-7751 and ask to speak to someone in licensing to register or send email to Nancy Berndt at [nberndt@co.scott.mn.us](mailto:nberndt@co.scott.mn.us) or to Meena Desai at [mdesai@co.scott.mn.us](mailto:mdesai@co.scott.mn.us) Class size is limited so register early.

## NEXT RULE REFRESHER COURSE

### Reminding U of Licensing Expectations

This is a 2 hour class of free training offered by Scott County Child Care Licensing . Perfect opportunity to get your 2 hours of training credit as well as rule refresher course both at the same time. We know for sure you will find this class very informative. Even though you have been doing care for many years, still some of the information that you will receive through this class would be a real eye opener. This is a great way to refresh your knowledge about child care license rule. **Remember there is no cost to attend this training.** Due to a great demand, we are offering this training again on **April 4th, 2011 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Scott County Government Center**. If you have not attended this training yet, and if you are interested in attending or have questions regarding the class, please call 952-445-7751 to register. We guarantee you will not be disappointed.

# Licensors' Corner

## Great Idea for Providers

By Laurie Wolf

Complaint. Just the word makes most providers nervous. Providers do not like having someone call our agency with concerns about their program and we, as licensors, do not enjoy looking into those concerns. I would like to tell you about a complaint we received and what one provider was doing that made it very easy for me to verify that she was following the Licensing Rule. The complaint our agency received was that the provider had too many children in care. I went to the home to talk to the provider and we reviewed the children she provides care for. The number of children listed on her roster were more than her license allowed. However, many of the children came on a part time or drop in basis. The provider assured me that at any given time, she was always within her licensed capacity. Then the provider showed me a Sign In/Sign Out Log that she kept each day. Parents sign their children in each morning with the child's name, arrival time and parent signature. When the parent picks up at the end of the day, the parent signs the child out by putting the time out and again signing their name. If a child leaves for school from the provider's home, the provider will sign the child out. If a child arrives after school, the provider signs the child in. Every day, a new log sheet is started with the date on the top. When the provider showed me this log book, I was able to glance through several weeks and verify that the provider was always within her licensed capacity. Because of this, I was able to say the outcome of the complaint was "did not occur". While I was at the home, one parent came to pick a child up and I witnessed them sign the log sheet. From a licensor's prospective, the log book made it very easy for me to verify the provider was following the Licensing Rule. And quite honestly, it probably made the complaint visit quicker, which is always nice for the provider.

About now some of you are thinking, "Well, I am always within my licensed capacity so I have nothing to worry about". The provider I had to visit was also within her licensed capacity, but someone obviously thought she had too many kids and they called us. Sometimes people don't understand our definitions of infants, toddlers or preschoolers, so they think the provider has too many kids. There are lots of reasons we get complaint calls. But in this particular situation, the provider was able to show me verification that she was within her license capacity because of the Sign In/Sign Out Log Book.

**I think it is a great idea that other providers might be interested in.**

### **RULE REMINDER ~**

#### **9502.0365 Subp. 1. Licensed Capacity, Child / Adult Ratio, Age Distribution Restrictions.**

Family day care and group family day care providers shall comply with this rule, which limits the total number of children and the number of preschoolers, toddlers, and infants who may be in care at any one time, and provides for the number of adults who are required to be present. Providers shall be licensed for the total number of children, ten years of age or younger, who are present in the residence at any time. **The licensed capacity must include all children of any caregiver when the children are present in the residence.** Within the licensed capacity, the age distribution restrictions specify the maximum number of children under school age, infants, and toddlers who are in care at any one time.

**Licensed capacity is the second most common complaint received by our agency; Supervision is number one.**

## CLARIFICATION CORNER

### RECALL ON CRIBS - DROP SIDED CRIBS

#### 8 Simple Crib facts and what everyone should know.

- \* No retrofitting will be allowed.
- \* Manufacturers must meet new standards by June 2011.
- \* The new rules apply to owners and operators of child care facilities (including in-home child care, private, public, profit, non profit) and public accommodations such as hotels on December 28, 2012.
- \* Do not replace your cribs today! There is little chance that crib purchased today will meet the new standards.
- \* Rules affect non-full size and full-size cribs.
- \* The new rules will affect Every crib not just cribs with drop sides.
- \* CPSC will inspect and fine providers violating these rules beginning on 12-28-2012.
- \* Although parents are not mentioned, they would be included in "Placement in the stream of commerce" category which would not allow them to re-sell or buy cribs which do not meet the new rules.

Scott County Child Care Licensing will notify the providers of any new crib regulation changes as soon as Consumer Product Safety Commission comes out with the new crib safety standards.

#### Are You Looking for Training?

##### Child Passenger Restraint Training Offered at AAA

Following are scheduled dates for the training

Saturday, March 19, 2011	9am to Noon	Saturday, May 21, 2011	9am to Noon
Saturday, April 16, 2011	9am to Noon	Saturday, June 25, 2011	9am to Noon

To register for any of the above sessions, please call Shannon Swanson at 612-414-9590 or e-mail at [Shannon.swanson@charter.net](mailto:Shannon.swanson@charter.net) If you are a AAA member, the class is free. For non members, cost of training class is \$25.

Other places to look for the training:

- \* Check with Child Care Resources & Referral. Check or register on line for the training at [www.mnstreams.org](http://www.mnstreams.org) or call 651-641-3549.
- \* Check on Scott County Licensed Family Child Care Association website at [www.sclfcc.com](http://www.sclfcc.com)

Training Reminder ~~~

SIDS/SBS training is due every 5 years. Providers, please make sure you complete your training on time to avoid a correction order.

\*\*\*\*\* Scott County Child Care Licensing no longer offers SIDS/SBS training.

# MEENA'S CORNER

## Indoor Summer Activities and Sun Safety for Daycare Programs

Excerpt taken from Own Daycare.com by CSNUGGS

The warm weather is on its way and you and the children in your care will be spending more time doing outdoor activities. Infants, toddlers and preschoolers are at greater risk for heat related conditions like dehydration and heat exhaustion so it is important to take the proper precautions. Daycare providers, preschool teachers, and parents must make careful decisions about when to let kids play outside and when to keep them indoors.

### **Keeping Kids Safe during Extreme Summer Heat**

- Always check the weather for ozone warnings and weather advisories.
- Peak sun hours are from 10 am. to 4 pm., so limit a child's time in the sun during these times.
- It is very important to stay hydrated. Have the children drink water before outdoor activities, as well as during and after. Make sure children take regular and frequent breaks when playing outdoors.
- Dress children in loose-fitting, light fabrics. Natural fabrics like cotton or linen are best.
- Sunscreen is a must. Protect children from UV rays with a sunscreen that has an SPF value between 15 and 30. Apply 30 minutes before heading outdoors and reapply every two hours.
- Try to incorporate water related activities, such as water balloon tosses, water games with toys that spray water, or sprinkler fun.

### **Indoor Preschool Activities for Hot Days**

If there is an ozone warning, or the weather is just entirely too severe, keep children indoors as much as possible. If you must keep children indoors they can become bored and finicky. To combat this:

- Double-up on your usual fun group activities. For example, play an extra indoor game, read an extra story, or put on a puppet show or finger play.
- Call your local library and arrange a story time with an activity. Make sure the library is air conditioned.
- Make cool refreshing treats with the children. Try making "Apple Snow": using a blender, blend together 1.5 cups apple juice, a tablespoon of honey, and 3 cups cracked ice. Put in a cone shaped paper cup and serve.
- Modify the activities that you normally do during rainy or snowy days so that they have beach or summer themes. For example, set up an indoor scavenger hunt for beach related items.

The lazy days of summer are fun but it is important to be mindful about how the sun affects small children. **One of the most important daycare jobs is to keep kids protected. Be creative with your activities, and always have fun with it.**

### **Rainy Day Activities for Daycare and Preschool**

When rainy days are on the horizon, be prepared with fun indoor activities that will not only keep children in your daycare business busy but will encourage their development. Dramatic play, cooking with children, group activities, and library activities will provide hours of enjoyment.

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# MEENA'S CORNER

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## **Dramatic Play**

Dramatic play is an excellent rainy day activity. Create a prop box and set up a scene. A prop box contains all of the creative elements to act out a particular scene. Children can pick and choose the props they want to explore and set up imaginary scenarios. For example, a fishing prop box may contain a tackle box with tackle, plastic worms, fishing rods with string, plastic fish with magnets, binoculars, fishing vests and hats, a thermos, fishing literature, lunch boxes.. Create a boat out of a large box. Teach children to show you how they catch a fish or children may imagine they are on a fishing trip with friends.

## **Cooking with Children**

Keep little minds and hands busy with simple non-bake cooking activities. For example, make peanut butter balls. Let the children mix together 1/2 cup peanut butter, 2.5 tbsp powdered milk, 2 tbsp raisins, 2 tbsp honey. Let children form the mixture into little balls, and then roll them in coconut and sesame seeds to coat.

## **Add More Group Activities**

Double up on your usual fun group activities. For example, you may choose to play an extra indoor game, read an extra story, or put on a puppet show or finger play. One such group activity is a scavenger hunt. Try this "blue scavenger hunt": Cut out pictures of items that are blue and attach them to card stock, such as blueberries, blue jay, the sky, the ocean, blue jeans, blue paint, blue crayons, a sapphire, whale, dolphins, blue eyes, etc. Hide the pictures around the class. The child who finds the most blue items may win a classroom privilege.

## **Bookmobile or Library Field Trip**

A bookmobile is a mobile library. Contact the local library and speak to the director of children or youth services to find out if they have a bookmobile. The library may send a bookmobile along with a children's librarian to the daycare center. The librarian will usually provide story time and introduce the children to all type of literature. If the local library is very close by and rain is not too much of an issue, call your local library and arrange to bring the children in for an age appropriate story time and activity. The librarian may implement activities such as songs, flannel board stories finger plays, and games related to a particular theme.

**Don't let a little precipitation keep your kids parked on the couch all day: Try one of these rainy day activities, games, or outings that encourage physical fitness (and keep the "I'm bored" complaints to a minimum too).**

**Child Care Licensing Rule says with weather permitting day care children should have outdoor play time everyday regardless of the season. Scott County Child Care License website has added a "Childcare Weather guidelines" chart under "Provider Information" that will be helpful to decide what is a comfortable, safe temperature for kids to be outside. This is just a guideline and not a rule. If you are not sure whether temperature is too hot or too cold for kids to be outside, please call school in your area to find out if children are allowed outside during recess time or not. Following is "Childcare Weather Guidelines" website link.**

<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci/common/pdf/weatherwatch.pdf>



Scott County  
Child Care Licensing

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Although I'm not their mother,  
I care for them each day.  
I cuddle, sing, and read to them,  
And watch them as they play.

I see each new accomplishment,  
And help them grow and learn,  
I understand their language,  
And I listen with concern.

They come to me for comfort,  
And I kiss away their tears.  
They proudly show their work to me,  
I give the loudest cheers!

No, I am not their mother,  
But my role is just as strong.  
I nurture them and keep them safe,  
Though maybe not for long.

I know someday the time may come,  
When we will have to part,  
But I know each child I've care for  
Is forever in my heart!



AUTHOR UNKNOWN