

SAFETY, It's a BIG DEAL

Supervision of Children

School is out for the summer and the weather has finally broken. The forecast is HOT! During this time of the year many facilities often begin taking children on excursions to local parks and swimming pools. Taking children on excursions can be an exciting experience for the children and provide them the opportunity to play and learn in a new environment. For child care providers this may be an overwhelming and stressful experience.

In light of two very serious incidents in which children's lives were jeopardized at separate child care facilities in Pennsylvania, the Bureau of Certification would like to reinforce the importance of **§3270.113(a)(1)**, **§3280.113(a)(1)** and **§3290.113(a)** relating to supervision of children.

To protect the safety and welfare of children in care it is necessary to properly supervise children at all times. For child care centers and group homes regulations **§3270.113(a)(1)** and **§3280.113(a)(1)** state:

- Each staff person shall be assigned the responsibility for supervision of specific children. The staff person shall know the names and whereabouts of children in his assigned group. The staff person shall be physically present with the children in his group on the facility premises and on facility excursions off the facility premises.

Regulation **§3290.113(a)** for family child care homes states:

- Children on the facility premises and on facility excursion shall be supervised by a staff person at all times. Outdoor play space used by the facility is considered part of the facility premises.

Arriving SAFE

When transporting children in care on an excursion it is important to get them to and from the facility in safely. Remember that regulations **§3270.176(f)**, **§3280.176(f)**, and **§3290.174(f)** state:

- In accordance with 67 Pa. Code Chapter 171 (relating to school buses and school vehicles), the facility may not transport a child in an 11-15 passenger van.

It is important to maintain proper supervision while to and from your facility while on an excursion. Please remember regulations **§3270.173(b)** and **§3280.173(b)** for child care centers and group child care homes:

- The driver may not be considered part of the staff child ratio when infant, young or older toddler, or preschool children are transported.

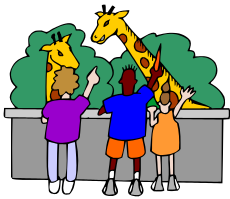
Swimming

As the weather heats up swimming becomes a popular way to stay cool. If you decide to take children in your care swimming please use extreme caution and keep in mind regulations **§3270.115(a)(5)-(8)**, **§3280.115(a)(5)-(8)**, and **§3290.115(a)(5)-(8)** state:

- (a)(5) – The following staff:child ratios apply when children are swimming:

	Staff	Children
Infant	1	1
Young or older toddler	1	2
Preschool	1	5
Young school-age	1	6
Older school-age	1	6

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OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT
AND EARLY LEARNING



- (a)(6) – When children are swimming, supervision shall include one person certified in lifeguard training.
- (a)(7) – The person certified in lifeguard training may not be included in the staff:child ratio.
- (a)(8) – A facility person who is counted in the staff:child swimming ratio shall annually complete water safety instruction

If you have a swimming pool on grounds for children in your care please remember that **an in-ground swimming pool accessible to children must be fenced with a locked gate. An aboveground swimming pool which is not in use must be made inaccessible to children in accordance with the swimming pool barrier guidelines of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission.** This is in compliance with regulations §3270.115(a)(2) and (3) for child care centers, §3280.115(a)(2) and (3) for group child care homes, and §3290.115(a)(1) and (2) for family child care homes.

Heat Precautions

Make it a priority to see that children in your care do not become overheated or experience overexposure to the sun. Offer children plenty of liquids on a regular basis. Weather that poses a significant health risk includes a heat index at or above 90 degrees F, as identified by the National Weather Service. Check out the online [heat index calculator](#).

Please keep in mind that playground surfaces can be heated to excessive temperatures when exposed to direct sunlight, including ground surfacing, slides, swings and other metal surfaces. Certification staff have received reports of children who were seriously burned as a result of contact with hot playground surfaces. Staff should check the temperature of ground surfacing and equipment prior to use by children. Children should wear appropriate footwear protect their feet while playing. Playground surfaces are especially prone

to high temperatures on days with a high ultraviolet (UV) index.

The UV Index indicates the strength of solar UV radiation on a scale from 1 (low) to 11+ (extremely high). You can find the UV Index and UV Alert forecasts for your area by visiting the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) [SunWise Web site](#). Enter your ZIP Code to find the UV forecast for your area and whether there is a UV Alert. Additionally, the SunWise Web Site will direct you to EPA's EnviroFlash Web site, where you can sign up to receive the daily UV Index and occasional UV Alerts directly by e-mail.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website has general information for people of all ages online at [Extreme Heat: A Prevention Guide to Promote Your Personal Health and Safety](#).

Crib Safety Standards



In June the CPSC website Q&A's regarding new crib standards was updated. You can find this information at:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/onsafety/2011/06/the-new-crib-standard-questions-and-answers/>

There is also a new poster available on the CPSC website describing the new requirements for cribs effective for manufacturers as of June 28, 2011. You can find this information at:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/nsn/cribrules.pdf>

Please note the new standards are effective for manufacturers as of June 28, 2011. Child care facilities have until December 28, 2012 to comply.

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