



Families

Child and Youth Division
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Familles

Services aux enfants et aux jeunes
Programme d'apprentissage et de garde des jeunes enfants
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June XX, 2019

Dear Child Care Provider:

With summer upon us, this letter serves to remind you of the need for diligence, caution and enhanced supervision when caring for children involved in water activities and when taking children outdoors, on outings and/or field trips.

- It is important to be aware of the requirements governing the use of wading pools and other water activities, as well as the risks involved. Supervision is critical to keep water activities safe.

Please see the attached letter from Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living about consistent, province-wide requirements regarding the use of recreational water. Unregulated recreational water facilities, including residential in-ground and above-ground swimming pools, portable pools, “kiddie” or inflatable wading pools, hydro-massage pools, hot tubs, and spas **do not** meet the minimum requirements of the Manitoba legislation for public use, therefore **cannot be used** for water activities for children attending licensed early learning and child care (ELCC) facilities.

- Outings and field trips also bring increased risks to children’s health and safety and it is important to take steps to reduce these risks. If you choose to go on a field trip, developing and implementing a comprehensive plan helps ensure a safe, successful, and enjoyable experience for everyone.
- Children must be supervised at all times, whether at your facility or on an outing or field trip. It is important to ensure that all children are accounted for at all times. Ensure you have a plan in place that includes constant counts and face recognition of the children in your care.
- In the summer, we spend a lot of time having fun outside. Practising sun safety helps protect children and adults from the harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation (UVR). Frequent sun exposure and sunburn in childhood set the stage for higher rates of melanoma later in life. Sunscreen, appropriate clothing and shade all help to protect children and adults from UVR exposure.

For additional information and resources, visit:

- Canadian Cancer Society's website at cancer.ca/en/prevention-and-screening/reduce-cancer-risk/get-involved-mb/sunsense/?region=mb;
 - Health Canada’s website at canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/sun-safety.html; and
 - Environment Canada’s website at ec.gc.ca/uv/.
- Please see the attached information sheets for specific information and requirements related to field trips, water safety, sun safety as well as enhancing your program and neighbourhood outings. Consider distributing the information sheets to staff and posting them as a reminder and for quick reference throughout the summer.

Safety inspections, effective adult supervision and developmentally appropriate equipment are all essential to ensuring children's safety on playground equipment. To help prevent playground injuries, make sure there is protective surfacing around equipment and the equipment is in good condition. Please see the daily, monthly and annual safety checklists for outdoor play spaces in your *Guide to Safety Charter Requirements* resource binder for more detailed information.

In addition, remember that everyone under the age of 18 is required to wear a bike helmet when cycling, riding as a passenger or being pulled by a bike. Properly fitted bike helmets are required when children are using any type of bike or riding toy with pedals on your property and in any public space such as a sidewalk, park or roadway. For information and resources, visit the Health, Seniors and Active Living' website at gov.mb.ca/health/hep/bikesafety/index.html.

It is important to be aware of the risks of pesticide use and the related regulations. If you are using a low-risk pesticide at your child care facility, carefully read the directions and warnings on the product label. Please pay close attention to restrictions for children, pregnant women and individuals with allergies when applying a product and allowing re-entry into a pesticide-treated area. For information and resources, visit the Sustainable Development website at gov.mb.ca/sd/envprograms/initiatives/pesticide_red/index.html.

Further information is available in your licensing manuals. Please refer to all safety regulations, guidelines and best practices under *Supervision, Outings, Outdoor Space, Play Equipment* and *Daily Outdoor Play*.

Remember that proper planning and supervision are critical to ensuring everyone's safety. If you have any questions, please contact your Child Care Coordinator.

Let's keep this summer's activities fun and safe.

Sincerely,



Michelle Stephen-Wiens
Acting Director
Early Learning and Child Care Program

Attachments

c: Child Care Coordinators