

Get to Know You Questionnaire

Child's Name:	1	Nickname:				
Parent's/Guardian's Name(s):						
Home Information						
Parent's/Guardian's status: single parent together separate divorced						
If separated or divorced, for how long?		f divorced, is either parent remarried?				
Custody/visiting arrangements, if applicable	le:					
Is parent/guardian away from home for lor	ng periods of time or on a regular ba	asis?				
If child was adopted, at what age?	Comments:					
Name	Birth Date	Name	Birth Date			
sbu						
Siblings						
Are there any special situations with sibling	gs that you feel we should know ab	out?				
Other members of the household:						
Please list names of people who frequently	y care for your child:					
Please describe previous group experienc	e (play group, family, babysitter, ch	ildcare center) your child has had:				
Is there anything else you would like us to know about your child's home life?						
Physical Health						
Please explain any unusual problems you experienced during your pregnancy:						
Please explain any unusual problems you or your child experienced during the birth process?						
Has your child had health problems in the past?						
Does your child have health problems now	v?					
If your child has allergies, to what and how	v severe?					
Is your child on regular medication?						
If your child has been hospitalized, when and for what reason?						

Does your child have any recurring or chronic health problems (asthma, frequent ear infections)?
Does your child have a diagnosed disability?
Development
Do you have any concerns with your child's language development?
At what age did your child say his first words?
Is your child's speech easily understood by adults outside of the immediate family? yes no
Does your child have any speech peculiarities his/her caregivers should learn about to better understand him or her?
Do you speak a language other than English at home?
Do you have any concerns about your child's general development?
At what age did your child begin walking?
Please explain any problems your child may have with walking, running or moving:
Does your child have any problems seeing?
Does your child have any problems hearing?
Does your child show a preference for left hand or right hand?
Daily Living
Would you characterize your child as a: good eater a picky eater somewhere in between
What time does your child usually eat? D breakfast D lunch D dinner
What foods does your child like?
What foods does your child dislike?
Does your child observe a special diet (kashrut, vegetarian, low cholesterol, low sugar)?
Is your child: □ in diapers □ beginning to use toilet □ using toilet?
How does your child indicate bathroom needs (words for urination, bowel movement)?
Can your child take care of toileting independently? yes no If no, please explain help required:
Sleep:
What time does your child? awaken anap ago to bed
Is bedtime an easy routine or difficult?

Does your child sleep through the night? □ yes □ no If no, why does he/she usuallyawaken?
Please list bedtime fears, if any:
Social Relationships/Play
Does your child play well alone? □ yes □ no
Does your child have regular playmates? □ yes □ no What ages?
How would you describe your child? outgoing aggressive shy withdrawn
What are some of your child's favorite toys?
What makes your child angry?
How much television/video does your child watch per day?
What are your child's favorite programs/videos?
Would you like to cut down on your child's viewing time?
What is the best way to discipline your child?
How do you comfort your child?
Does your child use a special blanket, doll, stuffed animal for comfort?
Is your child frightened by animals, rough or loud children, loud noises, dark, storms, or anything else?
Is there anything else that you would like to share with us or feel we should know?
Parent/Guardian Signature:Date:



SUNSCREEN PERMISSION

We spend time outside with the children as part of our daily activities. If you would like us to use protective sunscreen on your child, we must have your written consent. Please provide a bottle of sunscreen for your child with his or her name printed on it. We also ask that you please put sunscreen on your child in the morning we will apply again in the afternoon.

□ I do not know of any allergies my child has to sunscreen.

I have provided the following brand/type of sunscreen for use on my child:

□ My child is allergic to some sunscreens. Please use only the following brand(s) and type(s) of sunscreen:

Parent/Guardian Full Name (print): Parent/Guardian Signature: ______ Date: _____

BUG SPRAY PERMISSION

Part of our daily activities includes spending time outside with the children. If you would like us to use bug spray on your child, we must have your written consent. Please provide a bottle of bug spray for your child with his or her name printed on it. Bug spray is only given with consent and for children over 2 months of age.

□ I do not know of any allergies my child has to sunscreen.

□ I have provided the following brand/type of sunscreen for use on my child:

□ My child is allergic to some sunscreens. Please use only the following brand(s) and type(s) of sunscreen:

Parent/Guardian Full Name (print):

Parent/Guardian Signature: ______ Date: ______

PICTURE PERMISSION

I give permission to YMCA Southwest Florida Early Learning Centers to take my child's picture. I understand that by granting permission for this YMCA my use these pictures for display in the classroom, on Tadpoles, or possibly publication.

Parent/Guardian Full Name (print): ______

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date:

INFANT/TODDLER PERMISSION TO APPLY DIAPER CREAM

□ I do not know of any allergies my child has to diaper cream.

□ I have provided the following brand/type of diaper cream for use on my child:

□ My child is allergic to some diaper creams. Please use only the following brand(s) and type(s) of diaper cream:

Parent/Guardian Full Name (print): ______

Parent/Guardian Signature: Date:

CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEAL APPLICATION - COMBO

	1000											
Child's Name:		_ Center Name	& Address:									
Primary Hours of Care: From: To:		Days of the V	Veek in Care:	мтw	/ TH F S	S Meals T	ypically Serv	ved Whil	e in Care	BR MS LU	AS SU I	ES None
Please read the instructions and accompanying	Parent L	etter before comp	<u>pleting</u> this form	ı. If you	need assi	stance comp	leting this for	m, call: ()			
STEP 1: Complete the following table for all	INFANTS	and CHILDREN	I through age '	18 that	reside in	the househ	old, even if r	ot relate	ed. (inclue	de child listed at	top of for	rm)
Child's Name (Last Name, First Name			Attends this o				ild? (circle)			e) Homeless/		
			Yes	No		Yes	No	Yes	s No	١	/es No)
			Yes	No		Yes	No	Yes	s No	١	/es No)
			Yes	No		Yes	No	Yes	s No	١	∕es No)
			Yes	No		Yes	No	Yes	s No	۱	∕es No)
STEP 2: Do any household members (children If NO, go to STEP 3. If YES, enter one of the fo					n (FAP/SI	NAP) or Ten	nporary Assi	stance f	or Needy	/ Families (TAN	F) benef	its?
FAP/SNAP Case Number:	rovorso	sido for what tw				r:			EP 2)	_		
Children's Income – sometimes children earn										en the income is	received	1
												<u>.</u>
Children's income – Total: \$ STEP 4: Household income and adult house		How often recei										P 2)
Adult Household Members and Income – list taxes & deductions) from each source in <u>wh</u> that does not receive income from any source, Adult Household Member's Name (Last Name, First Name)	ole dolla write "non	rs only (no cent	<u>s)</u> and how oft enter "none" or ' n Work	en it is "0" or le	received ave any in ublic Assi	(i.e., weekly ncome fields	, bi-weekly, blank, you ar d Support/A l	twice a n e certifyir	nonth, m ng that th	nonthly, or annu	u ally). Fo e to repor / All Othe	or an adult rt. er Income
	\$		kly Biweekly Monthly	\$			ekly Biweekly Mon	thly	\$		ekly Biweekl	
	\$,	e a Month Annually kly Biweekly Monthly	\$		1	ce a Month Annuall ekly Biweekly Mon		\$	1	vice a Month eekly Biweekly	
		Twic	e a Month Annually			Twi	ce a Month Annuall	y	·	Tw	rice a Month	Annually
Total Household Members (Add STEP 1 & 4):		Last four digits	of Social Secu	rity Nur	mber (SSI	N) of adult h	nousehold m	ember:		[] If no) SSN, w	rite "none."
STEP 5: Contact information and adult signa By signing below, I am certifying (promising) that a of federal funds and that institution officials may ve	all informat											
Home address (if available):								Daytime	phone #	#: ()	_	
		Street Addr	ess, City, State, Z	'ip Code	1			-	-	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Signature of adult household member:				Prin [°]	ted name:	:				Date signed	1:	
OPTIONAL: Child's ethnic and racial identities We a Responding to this section is optional and does not affect	are required t your child'	to ask for informations eligibility for free or	on about your child r reduced-price me	's ethnici als.	ty and race. Ethnici	This information the state of t	on is important a):	nd helps m nic or Latir	nake sure t no <u> </u>	hat we are fully ser Not Hispanic or L	<i>i</i> ng the co atino	mmunity.
Race (check one or more): American Indian or	Alaskan N	ative Asia	n Black	or Africa	an Americar	n <u> </u> Nati	ive Hawaiian oi	Other Pa	cific Island	der <u> </u> White	;	
FOR CONTRACTOR USE ONLY: Categorical Eligibility: FAP/SNAP or TANF House	sehold [] Foster Child	Total Househo	old Size:		Total House	hold Income:	\$				
Eligibility Determination: Free Reduced-Pr NOTE: If different income frequencies are	ice 🗆 N	on-needy	How Often Inc	ome is F	Received (F	Frequency):	□ Weekly □	Biweekly		ce a Month 🛛 🛛 🕅	•	•
Reason for Non-needy Status: Income too High			Other Reaso				-		-		,	••••=
Determining Official's Signature:			Date:								Date:	
Revised 6/2019			Page 1									009-08

INSTRUCTIONS for completing the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application (use a pen and print all information other than signature)

Print the name of the child you are applying for at the top pf the form. Print the name and address of the child care center the child attends, if not already pre-printed. Print the primary hours of care for your child. Circle the days of the week your child primarily attends the child care center and the meals that you expect your child to receive while in care: breakfast (BR), morning snack (MS), lunch (LU), afternoon snack (AS), supper (SU), and/or evening snack (ES).

IF ANY MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FAP/SNAP) OR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) BENEFITS, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 1: List all children age 18 and under that are supported with the household's income, even if they are not related to you. Be sure to include the child listed at the top of the form. If there is not enough space to list all children, use a second form and attach the forms together. List the date of birth of each child. In the next three columns, circle Yes or No to answer each question for each child listed. STEP 2: Enter either the FAP/SNAP or TANF case number in the designated space. The case number will be on your letter of eligibility; it is not the number on your EBT card. STEP 3: Skip this step. STEP 4: Skip this step. STEP 5: Enter your address and phone # (if available). An adult household member must sign the form. Print the name of the person who signed the form, then enter the date signed.

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR A FOSTER CHILD, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS: With appropriate documentation, foster children are automatically eligible for free meals regardless of the income of the household where they reside. You have the option to provide the child care center with official documentation from the foster care agency or court that placed the child in the household, rather than completing this application. Should you choose to complete this application, and you are applying <u>only</u> for a foster child(ren), then only complete STEPS 1 and 5. If you are applying for foster and non-foster children, complete STEPS 1, 3, 4 and 5. If completing STEP 3, <u>do not</u> include payments to the household for the care of the foster child(ren). See the instructions listed below for the applicable steps.

ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS: STEP 1: List all children age 18 and under that are supported with the household's income, even if they are not related to you. Be sure to include the child listed at the top of the form. If there is not enough space to list all children, use a second form and attach the forms together. List the date of birth of each child. In the next three columns, circle Yes or No to answer each question for each child listed. STEP 2: Skip this step. STEP 3: Enter the total income received by all children listed in STEP 1, then check how often the income is received. STEP 4: List all adults age 19 and older that are supported with the household's income, even if they are not related to you and even if they receive no income. If there is not enough space to list all adults, use a second form and attach the forms together. For each adult, list the amount of income he/she regularly receives before taxes or anything else is taken out and circle how often the income is received (frequency) in the appropriate columns. If self-employed, list net income. See examples below for sources of income to report. For any adult with no income, write "none" or "0." Any income fields that are blank will also be counted as a zero (0). Enter the total number of household members (all children and adults), then list the last four digits of the social security number (SSN) of the adult completing/signing the application (or write NONE if he/she has no SSN). STEP 5: Enter your address and phone # (if available). An adult household member must sign the form. Print the name of the person who signed the form, then enter the date signed.

Sources of Income for Children		Sources of Income for Adults			
Earnings from work	A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages	Earnings from Work	Public Assistance/ Alimony/Child Support	Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income	
Social Security • Disability Payments • Survivor's Benefits	 A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits 	 Salary, wages, cash bonuses Net income from self- employment (farm or business) 	Unemployment benefits Worker's compensation Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	 Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) Private pensions or disability benefits 	
Income from person outside the household	A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money	If you are in the U.S. Military: Basic pay and cash bonuses (do	Cash assistance from State or local government	 Regular income from trusts or estates Annuities Investment income 	
Income from any other source	A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust	 Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing 	 Alimony payments Child support payments Veteran's benefits Strike benefits 	 Earned interest Rental income Regular cash payments from outside household 	

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that, unless you list a current Food Assistance Program (FAP/SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) case number or are applying for a foster child, you must include the last four digits of the Social Security Number (SSN) of the adult household member signing the application or indicate that the signer does not have a SSN. Providing the last four digits of a SSN is not mandatory, but if this information is not given or an indication is not made that the signer does not have a SSN, the application cannot be approved. The information provided on this form may be verified through program reviews, audits, and investigations and may include contacting employers to determine income, contacting a welfare office to verify receipt of FAP/SNAP or TANF benefits, contacting the state employment security office to determine the amount of benefits received, and checking any documentation produced by the household to prove the amount of income received. These verification efforts may result in a loss or reduction of benefits, administrative claims, or legal actions if incorrect information is reported. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs; auditors for program reviews; and law enforcement officials to help them investigate violations of program rules. **This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Please refer to the accompanying Parent Letter to read the full Nondiscrimination Statement**

Child Care Food Program Infant Feeding Form

Child care facility: Please fill in facility name and formulas offered before distributing to parents.				
Child Care Facility Name:				
*Formulas offered at this facility: Milk-based:				
Soy-based:				

This child care facility participates in the Child Care Food Program (CCFP) and is required to offer infant formula and food to your baby. The CCFP provides reimbursement for healthy meals provided and served to your baby while in our care. Our child care staff have been trained in infant feeding practices and offer age appropriate foods for your baby.

We welcome breastfed babies and support and encourage moms to continue breastfeeding when returning to work or school. For formula fed infants, we offer the iron-fortified infant formulas listed above to babies in our care.

To qualify for reimbursement, infant meals and snacks must include, at a minimum, the following food components at appropriate age and developmental stages:

- Breastmilk or iron-fortified infant formula (or a combination of both)
- ~ Iron-fortified infant cereal
- ~ A variety of texture-appropriate vegetables and fruits such as sweet potatoes, bananas, and peas.
- ~ A variety of texture-appropriate meat and meat alternates such as chicken, yogurt, and cheese.
- ~ Bread, crackers, Florida WIC-approved ready-to-eat cold cereals

Please be aware this child care facility:

- Will offer all food components to each infant that is developmentally ready to accept them. Parents do not have to bring in any foods for their children.
- ~ Can feed solid foods to infants in a bottle only when a medical statement is provided.
- ~ May request parents to supply clean, sanitized and labeled bottles on a daily basis.
- Requires the parent to label bottles of breastmilk or formula and containers of food that they provide with baby's name, date, and time of bottle or food preparation.

Parents please complete the following:

Baby's full name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Please check \checkmark this box \Box if your baby is breastfed. Please check if you plan to do one or both:

Provide pumped breastmilk \Box Visit facility to nurse \Box

I understand that this child care facility will supply the above iron-fortified formulas for formula-fed infants up to 12 months of age and infant cereal and baby food for infants 6 months and older, according to the CCFP requirements.

I prefer to supply my own formula (write in name of *formula): ____

This facility has not requested or required me to provide infant formula or food.

Parent Signature:	Date:
Printed Name of Parent:	

*Please note: Early Head Start facilities provide the brand of formula you currently give your infant as well as all age-appropriate food

Parent's Role

A parent's role in quality child care is vital:

- Inquire about the qualifications and experience of child care staff, as well as staff turnover.
- □ Know the facility's policies and procedures.
- □ Communicate directly with caregivers.
- $\hfill\square$ Visit and observe the facility.
- Participate in special activities, meetings, and conferences.
- □ Talk to your child about their daily experiences in child care.
- □ Arrange alternate care for their child when they are sick.
- Familiarize yourself with the child care standards used to license the child care facility.

More information and free resources:

MyFLFamilies.com/ChildCare

This child care facility is licensed accordingto the minimum licensure standards included in section 402.305, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 65C-22, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). License Number: ______ License Issued on __/_/__ License Expires on __/_/__ For more information regarding the compliance history of this child care provider, please visit: MyFLFamilies.com/childcare







MyFLFamilies.com

To report suspected or actual cases of child abuse or neglect, please call the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-962-2873.

CF/PI 175-24, 03/2014 This brochure was created by the Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Child Care Regulation and Background Screening pursuant to s. 402.3125(5), F.S.,



Know Your Child Care Facility

MyFLFamilies.com/ChildCare

General Requirements

Every licensed child care facility must meet the minimum state child care licensing standards pursuant to s. 402.305, F.S., and ch. 65C-22, F.A.C., which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- □ Valid license posted for parents to see.
- □ All staff appropriately screened.
- Maintain appropriate transportation vehicles (if transportation is provided).
- Provide parents with written disciplinary practices used by the facility.
- Provide access to the facility during normal hours of operation.
- □ Maintain minimum staff-to-child ratios:

Age of Child	Child: Teacher Ratio
Infant	4:1
1 year old	6:1
2 year old	11:1
3 year old	15:1
4 year old	20:1
5 year old and up	25:1

Health Related Requirements

□ Emergency procedures that include:

- Posting Florida Abuse Hotline number along with other emergency numbers.
- Staff trained in first aid and Infant/Child CPR on the premises at all times.
- Fully stocked first aid kit.
- A working fire extinguisher and documented monthly fire drills with children and staff.
- Medication and hazardous materials are inaccessible and out of children's reach.

Training Requirements

- □ 40-hour introductory child care training.
- □ 10-hour in-service training annually.
- 0.5 continuing education unit of approved training or 5 clock hours of training in early literacy and language development.
- Director Credential for all facility directors.

Food and Nutrition

 Post a meal and snack menu that provides daily nutritional needs of the children (if meals are provided).

Record Keeping

- □ Maintain accurate records that include:
 - Children's health exam/immunization record.
 - Medication records.
 - Enrollment information.
 - Personnel records.
 - Daily attendance.
 - Accidents and incidents.
 - Parental permission for field trips and administration of medications.

Physical Environment

- Maintain sufficient usable indoor floor space for playing, working, and napping.
- Provide space that is clean and free of litter and other hazards.
- Maintain sufficient lighting and inside temperatures.
- □ Equipt with age and developmentally appropriate toys.
- Provide appropriate bathroom facilities and other furnishings.
- Provide isolation area for children who become ill.
- Practice proper hand washing, toileting, and diapering activities.

Quality Child Care

Quality child care offers healthy, social, and educational experiences under qualified supervision in a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment. Children in these settings participate in daily, age-appropriate activities that help develop essential skills, build independence and instill self-respect. When evaluating the quality of a child care setting, the following indicators should be considered:

Quality Activities

- Are children initiated and teacher facilitated.
- □ Include social interchanges with all children.
- Are expressive including play, painting, drawing, story telling, music, dancing, and other varied activities.
- □ Include exercise and coordination development.
 - Include free play and organized activities.
- □ Include opportunities for all children to read, be creative, explore, and problem-solve.



Quality Caregivers

- Are friendly and eager to care for children.
 Accept family cultural and ethnic differences.
 - Are warm, understanding, encouraging, and
 - responsive to each child's individual needs.
- □ Use a pleasant tone of voice and freqently hold, cuddle, and talk to the children.
- □ Help children manage their behavior in a positive, constructive, and non-threatening manner.
- Allow children to play alone or in small groups.Are attentive to and interact with the children.
 - Provide stimulating, interesting, and educational activities.
- Demonstrate knowledge of social and emotional needs and developmental tasks for all children.
 Communicate with parents.

Quality Environments

- Are clean, safe, inviting, comfortable, child-friendly. Provide easy access to age-appropriate toys.
- Display children's activities and creations.
- Provide a safe and secure environment that fosters the growing independence of all children.

A change in daily routine,

lack of sleep, stress, fatigue, cell phone use, and simple distractions are some things parents experience and can be contributing factors as to why children have been left unknowingly in vehicles...



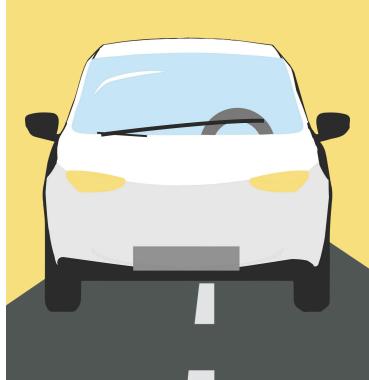


Developed by:

The Office of Child Care Regulation

www.myflfamilies.com/childcare CF/PI 175-12, May 2019

When life happens...Don't be a DISTRACTED ADDISTRACTED AD





FACTS ABOUT HEATSTROKE:

It only takes a car **10 minutes to heat up 20** degrees and become deadly.

Even with a **window cracked**, the temperature inside a vehicle can cause heatstroke.

The body temperature of a child increases **3 to 5 times faster** than an adult's body.



A PREVENTION TIPS:

- Never leave your child alone in a car and call 911 if you see any child locked in a car!
- Make a habit of checking the front and back seat of the car before you walk away.
- Be especially mindful during hectic or busy times, schedule or route changes, and periods of emotional stress or chaos.
- Create reminders by putting something in the back seat that you will need at work, school or home such as a briefcase, purse, cell phone or your left shoe.
- Keep a stuffed animal in the baby's car seat and place it on the front seat as a reminder when the baby is in the back seat.
- Set a calendar reminder on your electronic device to make sure you dropped your child off at child care.
- Make it a routine to always notify your child's child care provider in advance if your child is going to be late or absent; ask them to contact you if your child hasn't arrived as scheduled.

During the 2018 legislative session,

a new law was passed that requires child care facilities, family day care homes and large family child care homes to provide parents, during the months of April and September each year, with information regarding the potential for distracted adults to fail to

drop off a child at the facility/home and instead leave them in the adult's vehicle upon arrival at the adult's destination.

-	_	_	
=			
-	-	-	

My signature below verifies receipt of the Distracted Adult brochure

Parent/Guardian:

Child's Name:

Date:

Please complete and return this portion of the brochure to your child care provider, to maintain the receipt in their records. During the 2009 legislative session, a new law was passed that requires child care facilities, family day care homes and large family child care homes provide parents with information detailing the causes, symptoms, and transmission of the influenza virus (the flu) every year during August and September.

My signature below verifies receipt of the brochure on *Influenza Virus, The Flu, A Guide to Parents:*

N	а	m	e:	

Child's Name: _____

Date Received:_____

Signature:_____

Please complete and return this portion of the brochure to your child care provider, in order for them to maintain it in their records.



What should I do if my child gets sick?

Consult your doctor and make sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks a lot of fluids. Never give aspirin or medicine that has aspirin in it to children or teenagers who may have the flu.

CALL OR TAKE YOUR CHILD TO A DOCTOR RIGHT AWAY IF YOUR CHILD:

- Has a high fever or fever that lasts a long time
- Has trouble breathing or breathes fast
- Has skin that looks blue
- Is not drinking enough
- Seems confused, will not wake up, does not want to be held, or has seizures (uncontrolled shaking)
- Gets better but then worse again
- Has other conditions (like heart or lung disease, diabetes) that get worse



How can I protect my child from the flu?

A flu vaccine is the best way to protect against the flu. Because the flu virus changes year to year, annual vaccination against the flu is recommended. The CDC recommends that all children from the ages of 6 months up to their 19th birthday receive a flu vaccine every fall or winter (children receiving a vaccine for the first time require two doses). You also can protect your child by receiving a flu vaccine yourself.

What can I do to prevent the spread of germs?

The main way that the flu spreads is in respiratory droplets from coughing and sneezing. This can happen when droplets from a cough or sneeze of an infected person are propelled through the air and infect someone nearby. Though much less frequent, the flu may also spread through indirect contact with contaminated hands and articles soiled with nose and throat secretions. To prevent the spread of germs:

- Wash hands often with soap and water.
- Cover mouth/nose during coughs and sneezes. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.
- Limit contact with people who show signs of illness.
- Keep hands away from the face. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.



When should my child stay home from child care?

A person may be contagious and able to spread the virus from 1 day before showing symptoms to up to 5 days after getting sick. The time frame could be longer in children and in people who don't fight disease well (people with weakened immune systems). When sick, your child should stay at home to rest and to avoid giving the flu to other children and should not return to child care or other group setting until his or her temperature has been normal and has been sign and symptom free for a period of 24 hours.

For additional helpful information about the dangers of the flu and how to protect your child, visit: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/ or http://www.immunizeflorida.org/

What is the influenza (flu) virus?

Influenza ("the flu") is caused by a virus which infects the nose, throat, and lungs. According to the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the flu is more dangerous than the common cold for children. Unlike the common cold, the flu can cause severe illness and life threatening complications in many people. Children under 5 who have the flu commonly need medical care. Severe flu complications are most common in children younger than 2 years old. Flu season can begin as early as October and last as late as May.



How can I tell if my child has a cold, or the flu?

Most people with the flu feel tired and have fever, headache, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and sore muscles. Some people, especially children, may also have stomach problems and diarrhea. Because the flu and colds have similar symptoms, it can be difficult to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone. In general, the flu is worse than the common cold, and symptoms such as fever, body aches, extreme tiredness, and dry cough are more common and intense. People with colds are more likely to have a runny or stuffy nose. Colds generally do not result in serious health problems, such as pneumonia, bacterial infections, or hospitalizations.



For additional information, please visit <u>www.myflorida.com/childcare</u> or contact your local licensing office below:

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