

EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF OSCEOLA COUNTY

SCHOOL READINESS PROVIDER HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTIONS

ITEM: 220A.01

EFFECTIVE DATE: 2-22-07

REVISED: N/A

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POLICY STATEMENT

The Coalition is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all children enrolled in state funded school readiness programs in Osceola County.

PROCEDURE

Unregulated providers not licensed by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) including licensed exempt settings, registered family child care homes and informal settings that receive School Readiness funding, must be inspected and validated as meeting the stated Health and Safety Standards.

Health and Safety Standards

1. The Health and Safety Standards adopted by the Coalition are outlined in the School Readiness Program Evaluation (SRPE) tool.

Health and Safety Inspection Procedures

1. Each contracted provider that is not regulated by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) must be evaluated, at least once per program year, to ensure that they meet the minimum Health and Safety Standards. Health and Safety inspections must be unannounced. The provider must permit entry to the Coalition, or its designee, without delay.
2. All health and safety infractions cited during the visit must be documented on the Health and Safety Corrective Action Notice with clearly defined due dates and post-inspection dates that align with the pre-determined timeframes. This form must be signed by all parties and a copy left with the provider at the conclusion of the visit. Applicable technical assistance documentation or resources shall be given to the provider at the conclusion of the visit.
3. Providers who are observed by the Coalition, or its designee, to be either over-capacity or over-ratio will be disallowed payment within the associated classroom(s) for the day of the observation. The Coalition, or its designee, shall also report the observation to the Department of Children and Families (DCF), or the applicable accrediting agency.
4. The Coalition, or its designee, must return for the post-inspection on the date indicated on the Health and Safety Correction Action Notice to verify that the corrective action has been met. Appropriate compliance indicators will be noted on the Health and Safety Corrective Action Notice. The post-inspection must occur according to the level of the infractions cited as follows:
 - A. Level I infractions (serious non-compliance) must be verified as being resolved within twenty-four (24) hours.
 - B. Level II infractions (moderate non-compliance) must be verified as being resolved within seventy-two (72) hours.
 - C. Level III infractions (minor non-compliance) must be verified as being resolved within ten (10) business days.

Criteria for the Implementation of Enforcement Procedures

If a provider does not make the required changes, the Coalition's enforcement procedures shall be based on the seriousness of a School Readiness provider's non-compliance and the provider's compliance history, including:

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1. Seriousness of Noncompliance

The Coalition shall consider the School Readiness provider's responsibility for the non-compliance and the harm or threat of harm that the non-compliance causes. The School Readiness provider's responsibility may range from taking careful precaution against non-compliance, to negligence or carelessness, to recklessness, and to intentional noncompliance.

2. Compliance History

The Coalition shall consider the School Readiness provider's record of compliance with the Coalition's health and safety standards, including the frequency, repetition, and seriousness of the provider's past non-compliance.

A. Should an early learning provider accumulate three (3) or more resolved Level I violations within a twelve (12) month period, the provider may be suspended from providing School Readiness for a period of one (1) year.

B. Should an early learning provider accumulate two (2) Level II violations within a six month (6) month period or three (3) Level II violations within a twelve (12) month period, the provider may be suspended from providing School Readiness and for a period of one (1) year.

3. Aggravating or Mitigating Issues

The Coalition may consider aggravating issues in taking an enforcement action, including, but not limited to, an attempt to hide compliance. The Coalition may also consider mitigating issues, including, but not limited to, a school readiness provider's regret or remorse.

Enforcement of School Readiness Health and Safety Standards

A provider who fails or refuses to take corrective action within the designated timeframe shall receive written notification of their failure to comply. The Coalition may include in the written notification one or more of the following, based on the above criteria:

1. Enrollment Suspension - The provider may be suspended from enrolling School Readiness children into their program.
2. Nonpayment - The provider's payment may be denied for a child the day on which the child is harmed or threatened by the provider's noncompliance.
3. Termination - A provider may be terminated as a school readiness provider and/or a ban on the Coalition's payment of the school readiness funds to the provider.

PARTIES AFFECTED

All providers serving School Readiness funded children

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS / FORMS

School Readiness Program Evaluation