

Early Childhood Connector Call | October 2024

Topics covered during call

Early Childhood Connector Call October 2024	1
About Early Childhood Connector Calls.....	2
Connector Call Questions	2
Early Learning Services	2
DEED Office of Child Care Community Partnerships	2
Department of Labor and Industry.....	2
Child Care Licensing - General	3
Child Care Center Licensing	4
Family Child Care Licensing	5

About Early Childhood Connector Calls

On a quarterly basis, the state hosts Connector Calls with child care providers and early educators to answer questions related to legislation, licensing, programs, grants and more. The purpose of the call is to answer clarifying questions that providers may have. Calls are hosted online on WebEx, recorded and available publicly for those that weren't able to attend. [Calls are recorded and available on the Early Childhood Connector webpage](#). Translations to the questions answered during the call are also available online.

Educators of all types are invited to these calls. We welcome questions from school-based early childhood programs, licensed programs, certified centers, exempt programs, legally non-licensed providers, Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers, and individuals interested in starting a child care business.

Connector Call Questions

Early Learning Services

We received a handful of questions regarding early childhood teachers in school-based programs and their contract status. Questions should be directed to your local union representative.

DEED Office of Child Care Community Partnerships

- Are there any programs available to help rural child care programs?
 - Answer: The Child Care Economic Development grant RFP is out now. [Competitive Grants and Contracts / Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development \(mn.gov\)](#) Applications are due 10/31/24 at 4 pm. A minimum of 50% of those funds must go to rural Minnesota. As a part of the RFP at least one award of \$500,000 will be awarded to provide small sub-grants to private providers all around the state. There will also be \$900,000 in bonding dollars available later this fall that can only go to rural Minnesota.

Department of Labor and Industry

- There are more changes coming to the federal overtime laws. Are there state supports to cover the additional costs?
 - Answer: There are changes to federal overtime rules effective July 1, 2024 and January 1, 2025. Under the new rules, the overtime exemption salary threshold increased to the equivalent of an annual salary of \$43,888 on July 1, 2024 and will further increase to \$58,656 on Jan. 1, 2025. This means that salaried executive, administrative, and professional employees will need to receive a salary of at least these applicable amounts to be exempt from federal overtime requirements. For more information, please visit [this webpage](#) from the US Department of Labor or call 1-866-487-9243 to learn more. The Great Start Compensation Payment Support Program provides additional funding for compensation for those who regularly care for children.

Child Care Licensing - General

- The first draft of the child care regulation modernization was overwhelming. What is happening since we heard there has been a pause?
 - Answer: Based on the stakeholder feedback this summer, the department decided to extend the timeline for this component of the child care regulation modernization project. Since the end of the summer, the project team has been analyzing all the feedback that was received from the listening sessions, survey answers, interviews, and emails. DHS plans to share a summary of key themes from the listening sessions and survey later this month. The extension allows DHS time to create another draft of the revised licensing standards for **both family child care and child care centers**, which we anticipate will be released in December. Next year (January-June 2025) we plan to have another round of feedback from providers, licensors, and families on the next draft. DHS will now submit a final draft in the 2026 legislative session.
- What documentation is needed for children who are lactose intolerant?
 - Answer: Lactose intolerance would be addressed through a prescribed diet. If a **child care center** has a child enrolled who has a prescribed diet, the center must keep the child's diet order and its duration in the child's record. All staff designated to provide care to the child must be informed of the diet order. If a **Family Child Care Provider** has a child who is lactose intolerant, they would need to complete the Family Child Care Allergy Information Form. This form must be kept on file at the family child care home. Please note: Pursuant to MN Statute 245A.51, subd. 1, before admitting a child for care, the license holder must obtain information about any known allergy from the child's parent or legal guardian. The child's allergy information must be documented on a form approved by the commissioner, readily available to all caregivers, and reviewed annually by the license holder and each caregiver.
- What documentation is needed for children who are allergic to penicillin when we do not have penicillin on site? Do they still require an ICCPP?
 - Answer: Yes, an ICCPP (Individual Child Care Program Plan) is required. **Child care center** licensing standards require that prior to enrollment, license holders obtain documentation of any known allergy from the child's parent or legal guardian or the child's source of medical care, keep the information current, and develop an ICCPP. The ICCPP must include but not be limited to a description of the allergy, specific triggers, avoidance techniques, symptoms of an allergic reaction, and procedures for responding to an allergic reaction, including medication, dosages, and a doctor's contact information. If a **Family Child Care Provider** has a child who is allergic to penicillin, they would need to complete the Family Child Care Allergy Information Form. This form must be kept on file at the family child care home. Please note: Pursuant to MN Statute 245A.51, subd. 1, before admitting a child for care, the license holder must obtain information about any known allergy from the child's parent or legal guardian. The child allergy information must be documented on a form approved by the commissioner, readily available to all caregivers, and reviewed annually by the license holder and each caregiver.

- Why do child care programs need a child's dentist's information? What if the child hasn't seen a dentist yet?
 - Answer: The **child care center** rule currently requires the name, address, and telephone number of the child's source of regular dental care and source of emergency dental care. As part of the revised licensing standards project, consideration is being given to whether or not this should continue to be required in the updated standards. If a child has not yet seen a dentist, the provider should make a note to that effect in the child's file. **Family Child Care** requires information about a child's dentist on the Family Child Care Admissions and Arrangements Form. However, if a child has not have a dentist yet, this should be marked on the form.

- Is there or will there be a template for the lead water testing plans we're required to draft?
 - Answer: In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature passed language into a Minnesota Department of Health law requiring licensed and certified child care centers to develop a plan and begin testing for the presence of lead in drinking water at least once every five years beginning July 1, 2024. It is not a current DHS licensing requirement. For more information, visit [MDH's webpage](#). You can also contact MDH with questions at HEALTH.WIIN_Grant@state.mn.us or 651-201-4700.

- Transporting Children Training: With the new BEST training required (formally CARS), can you provide any more details about this training and when it will be available?
 - Answer: The Department of Public Safety will offer CARS training through 2024. Beginning in 2025, CARS will no longer be offered and you will need to meet this training requirement through BEST (Basic Education for Safe Travel). For more information about BEST training, visit the Minnesota Safety Council's [Child Passenger Safety website](#) and scroll down to the CARS is Transitioning to BEST header.

- In a SUIDS/AHT meeting for trainers, we were told for the Mandated Reporting section that we are no longer required to submit a written report within 72 hours of a verbal report. Is that correct?
 - Answer: The mandated reporting of maltreatment of minors law, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 260E, requires an oral report to be made immediately by telephone or otherwise when a mandated reporter knows or has reason to believe a child is being or has been maltreated within the previous 3 years. Immediately means as soon as possible but no longer than 24 hours. The law requires the oral report to be followed by a written report within 72 hours, exclusive of weekends and holidays. There was language added to 260E that upon implementation of the Provider Hub and development of reporting forms, reporting through the Hub would meet this requirement. We are still working on this component, and will inform providers when this is ready.

Child Care Center Licensing

- We walk to the park that is .4 miles away each day for outside time. We take walkie talkies that have a range to connect back to the program in case messages need to get passed. A staff member brings their personal cell phone. Do we need a cell phone that is connected to the child care to be in compliance?
 - Answer: Current child care center licensing standards require a working phone to be located within the center at all times. This could be a cell phone but it must be designated as the center phone and remain within the facility when the center is in operation. In addition, when children

are cared for outside of the facility, such as on field trips or neighborhood walks, staff must also have access to a working phone while away from the facility. A staff person's personal cell phone can be used for this purpose.

Family Child Care Licensing

- With the new continuous license for Family Child Care starting Jan. 1, 2025, how do training hours get counted? Please describe what would happen if their license renewed in October 2024.
 - Answer: If a provider has their licensing visit in October 2024, the licensor at that visit will review training from October 2023-October 2024. During the licensing visit in 2025, the licensor will look at training completed January 2024-December 2024. However, if the provider has not completed the 16 hours of annual training during the calendar year, a correction order will not be issued and the licensor will provide technical assistance to the provider regarding the requirement that annual trainings be completed during the calendar year moving forward. Then, during the 2026 licensing visit, the licensor will review training taken between January 2025-December 2025.

- What type of sheet should be used in a pack and play to meet licensing requirements?
 - Answer: MN statute requires a tight-fitting sheet. Specifically, MN Statute Chapter 245A 1435 states “(b) The license holder must place the infant in a crib directly on a firm mattress with a fitted sheet that is appropriate to the mattress size, that fits tightly on the mattress, and overlaps the underside of the mattress so it cannot be dislodged by pulling on the corner of the sheet with reasonable effort.”