



California Childcare Health Program (CCHP)

E-News for

Child Care Health Consultants

June 2008

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Greetings

Greetings from the California Childcare Health Program. Thanks to those of you who responded to our survey. We are always interested in hearing your comments and questions. They can be addressed to CCHP-CCHC@listserv.ucsf.edu. If you have a change of email address, please remember to update your profile here, <http://ucsfchildcarehealth.org/listserv/subscribe.html>.

Announcements

We have the following items available from our Web site:

1. [Publications Inventory Clearance Sale](#) (PDF; 98.2KB; 2 pp)
2. [Spanish Child Care Lead Poisoning Prevention Curriculum](#) (PDF; 1.14MB; 37pp) or [PREVENCIÓN DEL ENVENENAMIENTO CON PLOMO EN EL CUIDADO INFANTIL](#) (PDF; 1.00MB; 37pp)
3. [Appendix or Apendice](#) (PDF; 1.10M, 36pp)
4. [Lead Prevention Powerpoint in PDF format](#) (Spanish)
5. [Lead Prevention Powerpoint in ppt format](#) (Spanish)

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has announced a voluntary recall of children's storage bins

The storage bins were sold at Lowe's retail outlets nationwide from March 2007 through February 2008 for about \$6. Surface paint on the storage bins could contain excessive levels of lead, violating the federal lead paint standard. The recalled storage bins are wooden with scalloped edges and were sold in pastel green or pink. Item number 226782 (pastel green storage bin) or 226781 (pink storage bin) is located on the bottom of the storage bin.

Consumers should immediately take the recalled storage bins away from children and return them to any Lowe's store for a full refund. For additional information, contact L G Sourcing toll-free at (866) 493-6563 anytime, or visit www.lowes.com.

To see this recall on CPSC's web site, including pictures of the recalled product, please go to: www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml08/08260.html

Resources

Community Care Licensing's *Child Care Update*

The Community Care Licensing Division's *Child Care Update* for May 2008 is now available and can be viewed/obtained at:

ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/res/pdf/CCUpdate0508.pdf

Environmental Working Group's *Guide to Baby-Safe Bottles and Formula*

www.ewg.org/files/EWG_babyguide.pdf

Children's Environmental Health Disparities fact sheets available from the EPA

EPA has four new fact sheets on children's environmental health disparities. These new fact sheets address disparities in secondhand smoke exposure and asthma among African American and Hispanic American children. Each fact sheet includes important information on actions parents can take to protect their children and positive actions EPA and other organizations are taking to address each specific environmental health issue. The intended audiences are parents and community-based organizations working on environmental health issues of specific minority populations. These new fact sheets are the first set in a series. EPA plans to develop fact sheets on environmental health disparities among Asian and Pacific Islander American and American Indian children.

To download the fact sheets—see

yosemite.epa.gov/oceph/ochpweb.nsf/content/publications2.htm#2.

Low cost fluoride varnish available

The Dental Health Foundation is continuing its successful program to promote the widespread use of fluoride varnish in caries prevention by providing low cost fluoride varnish directly to health professionals, organizations and facilities.

The Foundation can provide VarnishAmerica unit-dose fluoride varnish from Medical Products Laboratories to any California health organization or professional. This is an extremely popular varnish product with many public and private health organizations. The Public Health Division of Medical Products Laboratories offers it at a very low price which the Foundation can pass on to all those interested.

The product comes in 200-dose packages, so it may not be suitable for organizations with small quantity needs. It does, however, have a 2 year shelf-life. If you represent an organization that uses or is considering using fluoride varnish, please contact Bruce Boyer or Spring Opara at the Dental Health Foundation, 510-663-3727, or email bboyer@tdhf.org

Emergency planning booklet for family child care providers and family, friend and neighbor caregivers

Minnesota has just published an emergency planning booklet, *Keeping Kids Safe: Your Home Care Emergency Plan*, for family child care providers and

family, friend and neighbor caregivers. It will be translated into Spanish, Hmong, Somali and Arabic. It can be found on the Minnesota website at: DHS-5299-ENG

The National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) announces the availability of the *Oral Health Resource Bulletin*

Materials listed in the bulletin address topics including dental sealants, early childhood caries, fluoride, oral injury and first aid, strategic planning, Head Start, and Medicaid. Single or multiple print copies of *Oral Health Resource Bulletin*: Volume XIX are available at no charge from the

HRSA Information Center

P.O. Box 2910, Merrifield, VA 22116, phone: (888) ASK-HRSA (275-4772), fax: (703) 821-2098, e-mail: ask@hrsa.gov, Web site: www.ask.hrsa.gov

An electronic copy is available at:

www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/ResBltnXIX.pdf

Electronic copies of this and previous volumes of the bulletin are available at:

www.mchoralhealth.org/materials/multiples/interchange.html

Website for kids on the benefits of handwashing

The Scrub Club™ program is the first of its kind—a fun, interactive and educational Web site (www.scrubclub.org) designed for children 3 to 8 years of age that teaches children the proper way to wash their hands. The site consists of a Webisode, interactive games, educational music, downloadable activities for kids, educational materials for teachers and program information for parents—to raise awareness about the benefits of handwashing and ultimately improve the health of children and reduce school sick days. The Partnership for Food Safety Education (PFSE) has partnered with NSF to create The Scrub Club™

The cornerstone of the Web site is a Webisode entitled “The Good, the BAC and the Ugly,” which features The Partnership for Food Safety Education’s loathsome but lovable character BAC® (from its Fight BAC!® public education campaign) along with his rotten-tootin’ sidekick Sal Monella in a wild west-themed adventure. Scrub Club™ and Scrub Club characters are copyright 2007 NSF International. www.scrubclub.org/info/parentsandteachers.aspx

Reports

Report summarizes the most recent scientific advances in understanding the importance of sensitive periods on brain development

The National Scientific Council on the Developing Child (NSCDC) at Harvard University has several publications relevant to ECE, including a new report, *The Timing and Quality of Early Experiences Combine to Shape Brain Architecture*. This report summarizes the most recent scientific advances in understanding the importance of sensitive periods on brain development, and the implications of those findings for policy. A pre-publication copy is available online at

www.developingchild.net/pubs/wp/Timing_Quality_Early_Experiences.pdf

The NSCDC has also released several new summaries of recent studies in developmental and behavioral science. They are available online at www.developingchild.net/pubs/sb_developmental.html. The most recent ones include:

How Early Child Care Affects Later Development

How Gene-Environment Interaction Affects Children's Anxious

Summaries of recent neuroscience studies are available at www.developingchild.net/pubs/sb.html. New summaries in neuroscience include:

Prenatal and Infant Exposure to an Environmental Pollutant Damages Brain Architecture and Plasticity

The California Healthcare Foundation's California Healthline, in a special report, discusses efforts to increase vaccination rates in California and the U.S.

The Special Report includes comments from:

- CDC spokesperson Curtis Allen
- Assembly member Juan Arambula (D-Fresno)
- Catherine Flores Martin, director of the California Immunization Coalition
- Gena Lewis, a pediatrician at Children's Hospital Oakland
- Yvonne Maldonado, an epidemiologist at Stanford University

More than one if four children in the U.S. is out of compliance with federally recommended childhood vaccination guidelines, according to CDC. Public health officials are concerned that missed vaccinations could make communities vulnerable to childhood diseases that have been suppressed for decades.

California and 47 other states allow parents to opt-out of vaccination requirements for religious or philosophical reasons. In some counties, up to 15% of parents have opted out.

Nationwide, CDC has recorded 64 cases of measles so far this year. In all but one of those cases, vaccinations could not be documented, according to Allen.

Lewis said reports in the media of parents claiming a link between the mercury-based vaccine preservative thimerosal and autism have prompted many parents to question vaccination.

Maldonado said vaccination programs in a way have become victims of their own success. "We are very cavalier about these illnesses [because] we don't see them," she said, adding, " But that's because we're vaccinating and keeping them at bay" (Kennedy, California Healthline, 5/12).

[Click to go to article](#)

Research

Domestic violence is found to be pervasive in an urban pediatric clinic population

In a study of families seeking care at an urban pediatric clinic, 23% of women who were screened for physical and emotional domestic violence disclosed that they had been abused, according to a report in the April 15th online issue of the *Journal of Pediatrics*. Most of the women reported that their children had also been exposed to the violence. "Almost 60% (of the women who reported they had been abused) stated that their child had been directly exposed to violence ranging from pushing to using a knife or gun."

Bair-Merritt, M. H., J. M. Jennings, et al. (2008). "Screening for domestic

violence and childhood exposure in families seeking care at an urban pediatric clinic." *J Pediatr* **152**(5): 734-6, 736 e1.

Study shows children who attended day care or playgroups had lower risk of developing acute lymphoblastic leukemia

[Medscape Medical News 2008. © 2008 Medscape
Zosia Chustecka

April 29, 2008 — A new analysis of published studies has found that children who attended day care or playgroups had about a 30% lower risk of developing acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) than children who did not.

The finding was presented today by Patricia Buffler, PhD, professor of epidemiology at the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley. She was speaking in London, United Kingdom, at the 2nd Causes and Prevention of Childhood Leukemia Conference, which was organized by the charity Children with Leukemia.

ALL is the most common type of childhood leukemia, accounting for more than 80% of cases, and typically occurs in infants between the ages of 2 and 5 years. It is one of the most common cancers in children in the industrialized world, affecting about 1 in 2000 children, the charity notes in a statement.

One theory about how the disease develops focuses on early infection. Some proponents of this theory believe that if the immune system is not challenged early in life and does not develop normally, then it mounts an inappropriate response to infections encountered later in childhood, the charity explains. This could provoke the development of leukemia in children who are susceptible, for example, because of a genetic mutation.

Children who attend day care and playgroups are likely to be exposed to common infections early in life; such environments are known to increase the spreading of infection. The latest finding presented by Dr. Buffler bolsters the theory that such early exposure to infection offers some protection against the disease, the charity says.

The analysis included 14 published studies and involved 6108 children with and 13,704 without leukemia. Parents were asked about day care and playgroup attendance and other forms of social interaction. Twelve of the studies showed that social interaction had a protective effect against leukemia and 2 showed no effect. Overall, the risk for leukemia was lowered by about 30%. This remained the case when the researchers reanalyzed the data and considered only children who had attended day care before the age of 2 years. When 5 studies were excluded because of concerns about the methodology that had been used, analysis of the remaining 9 studies found that the risk for leukemia was lowered by 40%.

"These findings are important because this is the first time the results of all the relevant studies have been put together; it clearly shows that there is an effect here," said Edward Copisarow, chief executive officer of Children with Leukemia. "This is the kind of research that brings us a step closer to understanding the causes of this complex disease and how we can prevent it."

2nd Children with Leukaemia Causes and Prevention of Childhood Leukemia Conference. Presented April 29, 2008.]

Health-related quality of life among adults who experienced maltreatment during childhood

This study assessed the difference in reported health among adults reporting maltreatment as a child versus those reporting no maltreatment. Results showed persons who experienced childhood maltreatment had significant and

sustained losses in health-related quality of life in adulthood relative to persons who did not experience maltreatment.

Corso, P. S., Edwards, V. J., Fang, X., & Mercy, J. A. (2008). Health-Related Quality of Life Among Adults Who Experienced Maltreatment During Childhood. *American Journal of Public Health, 98*(6), 1094-1100.

Foods that most commonly cause injuries in children

This study analyzed aspiration, choking, ingestion, and insertion injuries in children due to food items and sought to identify and characterize food items with a high risk of airway obstruction in children. They found that hard, round foods with high elasticity or lubricity properties, or both, pose a significant level of risk for obstruction injuries. Hot dogs, candies, meat, peanuts, carrots, apples, and popcorn were the highest-risk foods for young children. Peanuts caused the highest frequency of injury, and hot dogs were most often associated with fatal outcomes. Food safety education can help pediatricians and parents select, process, and supervise appropriate foods for children younger than 3 years to make them safer for this highest-risk population.

Altkorn R. et al (2008). Fatal and non-fatal food injuries among children (aged 0-14 years). *International Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology*, doi:10.1016/j.ijporl.2008.03.010

Study shows children arriving at schools less likely to be using seat belts or car seats than children observed at intersections

Motor vehicle crashes (MVCs) are the leading cause of mortality for children aged 4-14 in the United States. Unrestrained children are more likely to be injured, suffer more severe injuries, and die in MVCs than restrained children. This study examined the use of restraints by children in motor vehicles at intersections and upon arrival at school. Children arriving at school were using appropriate restraints 24.8% of the time, while children observed at intersections were restrained 71.2% of the time. The study shows the importance of educating parents about proper restraint use when transporting children to school or child care.

Emery, K. D., & Faries, S. G. (2008). The Lack of Motor Vehicle Occupant Restraint Use in Children Arriving at School. *Journal of School Health, 78*(5), 274-279.

Study finds children's cereals have more sugar, sodium, carbohydrate and calories

["Breakfast cereals for children are less healthy than cereals meant for adults, and those marketed the most aggressively to kids have the worst nutritional quality, according to a new analysis of 161 brands.... Children's cereals had more sugar, sodium, carbohydrate and calories per gram than non-children's cereals, and less protein and fiber. Sugar accounted for more than one-third of the weight of children's cereals, on average, compared to less than one-quarter of the adult cereals. Thirty-four percent of the kids' cereals met nutrition standards for foods sold in schools, compared to 56 percent of the non-children's cereals...."] Reuters Health/Yahoo! News (April 23, 2008.)

"Examining the Nutritional Quality of Breakfast Cereals Marketed to Children." By Marlene B. Schwartz, Yale University, and others. IN: *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*, vol. 108, no. 4 (April 2008) pp. 702-705.]

New study identifies barriers to children participating in outdoor physical activity at child care centers

"Why Aren't The Day Care Children Playing Outside? Flip Flops, Mulch and No Coat." By the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. IN: *ScienceDaily*, May 5, 2008. 2 p.

["At a time when over half of US children (aged 3-6) are in child care centers, and growing concern over childhood obesity has led physicians to focus on whether children are getting enough physical activity, a new study of outdoor physical activity at child care centers, conducted by researchers at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, has identified some surprising reasons why the kids may be staying inside.... 'It's things we never expected, from flip flops, mulch near the playground, children who come to child care without a coat on chilly days, to teachers talking or texting on cell phones while they were supposed to be supervising the children,' according to Kristen Copeland, M.D., lead author of the study which was funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. She noted that because there are so many benefits of physical activity for children—from prevention of obesity, to better concentration and development of gross motor skills—it's important to know what barriers to physical activity may exist at child-care centers."]

Full-text at: www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/05/080505072824.htm

Breastfed babies have higher IQ's

["Research has shown that breastfed babies are healthier than babies given formula and have fewer allergies and infections. And, says Michael Kramer, they're also smarter. 'We found that the children in the experimental group had about three to five IQ points higher than those in the control group and that their teachers rated them slightly higher in academic subjects of reading, writing, math.' The McGill University professor of pediatrics and epidemiology led a team of researchers who analyzed the effect of breastfeeding on cognitive development. They studied 14,000 children from birth to age 6-and-a-half in the eastern European country of Belarus, where breastfeeding had not been encouraged.... Kramer says, while the gain in IQ is modest, it is a gift any mother can give to her child. 'It is a comparable difference to what you find between a first born child and a subsequently born child, or a child that was read to or played with a lot by his mother and parents versus a kid who is parked in front of a television.'" *Voice of America* (May 8, 2008.)

Kramer, M. S. et al. (2008). Breastfeeding and child cognitive development: new evidence from a large randomized trial. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 65(5), 578-584.

The Links between the Neighborhood Food Environment and Childhood Nutrition.

By Leslie Mikkelsen and Sana Chehimi, Prevention Institute. (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Princeton, New Jersey) 2007. 36 p.

This research focuses on how the neighborhood food environment influences the food choices of low-income children, ages 3 to 12, and their families. The neighborhood food environment includes not only as the food sources children encounter on their way to and from school and on the weekends, but also the options available to their parents and caregivers for preparing and purchasing family meals.

Report is available here: www.rwjf.org/files/research/foodenvironment.pdf

Designed for Disease: The Link Between Local Food Environments and Obesity and Diabetes

This report examines the relationships between retail food environments, obesity and diabetes, and community income. The study demonstrates that people who live near an abundance of fast-food restaurants and convenience stores compared to grocery stores and fresh produce vendors, have a significantly higher prevalence of obesity and diabetes.

www.publichealthadvocacy.org/PDFs/RFEI%20Policy%20Brief_finalweb.pdf

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