



**1-800-4CHILDCARE**

April 2008 ~ June 2008

# Child Care Chat

## Prepare for the Summer

In April before school gets out, the Child Care Council's referral line has an increase in calls from parents who are looking for child care. Be prepared. Call 1-800-424-4532 and inform us of any openings you may have for this summer. This high volume of phone calls starts in April and continues until August. Be sure that you keep your vacancies as up to date as possible on the NACCRRRA database. This will allow for better referrals during the peak season.

If you receive increased phone calls during the summer, but have all your slots filled, maintain a waiting list of two or three families. This way if a child or family leaves your program, you will have someone to call and hopefully fill your vacant slots.

When parents call the Council's Referral line, they often remark how they want their children to have an educational environment no matter what type of care they are interested in. This is especially important for the summer. Parents want to know that their children are engaged in stimulating activities that will help the

children develop and grow.

Start to think of summer activities, games, and fun you will have with the children in your program. Make sure parents know their children will have fun, yet they will also learn while they are with you. Design activities that children will be engaged in. Ask the children what games they like to play indoors and outdoors. Have a collection of cards, art supplies, and indoor/outdoor toys that the children will use during the summer.

The summer is a great chance for the child care provider and the child to have a fun filled time. There are many activities that can be done in and outdoors. The summer can be relaxing yet educational at the same time. Make the most of this time, for your program, and the families that you work with.



## PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

Friday, May 9, 2008

The Chautauqua Child Care Council wants you to know how much we appreciate YOU! In April, be watching your mail for a postcard (from the Chautauqua Child Care Council) containing details on a special celebration that will occur just for YOU! The Council is grateful for all you do for our children in Chautauqua County.

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## Mission Statement

*The Chautauqua Child Care Council works to foster collaborative relationships in order to build a strong responsive child care support system meeting the needs of all of Chautauqua County's families, child care providers, businesses and communities.*

## Chautauqua Child Care Council Advisory Board Members

Patricia Christina  
 Nancy Ferguson  
 Vince Horigan  
 Vickye James  
 Bridget Majka  
 Mike Moots  
 Ronda Piazza  
 Patricia Rosenbrock  
 Kari Seeley  
 Bob Stoczynski  
 Mary Kay Szejwbka  
 Roberta Traks  
 Sandra Waid

# A Letter from the Director

Last May, the Council along with the Chautauqua County Association for the Education of Young Children (CCAAYC) and the United Way of Southern Chautauqua County, co-sponsored a public forum to discuss the State of Child Care in Chautauqua County. More than one hundred people attended the forum, but it was just the first step toward improving the state of child care in Chautauqua County.

The next step in the process was to bring together the stakeholders that constituted the panel to analyze the information gathered at the public forum. This work group met three times between June and December 2007. Stakeholders were invited to join each meeting or send a repre-

sentative from his/her constituency.

The purpose of the Child Care Work Group was to develop a community action plan that will improve accessibility to affordable, high quality child care in Chautauqua County. With this purpose in mind, the group began by refining the lists of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing child care in Chautauqua County.

From the refined lists, the group developed an action plan for 2008 that uses the strengths of the child care community to capitalize on the opportunities available in order to address the identified weaknesses in the child care system.

It is the hope of the organizations convening the public forum and the Child Care Work Group that the accomplishment of these five goals will strengthen the state of child care in Chautauqua County.

*See Chart Below*

These achievements can then become blocks on which we can continue to build the infrastructure of child care, and meet the needs of Chautauqua County's youngest citizens.

If you have comments or questions about these goals or would like to help in making these goals a reality, please contact me at [bvogt@chautopp.org](mailto:bvogt@chautopp.org).

Sincerely,

*Bill Vogt*

Council Director

	Goal/Action Step	Weakness Addressed	Involved Stakeholders
1	There will be monthly print press coverage regarding early childhood care and education issues.	Negative Image / Public Attitude regarding child care and child care providers	United Way of Southern Chautauqua County, CCAEYC, Child Care Council
2	The Month of the Young Child will be County-wide, coordinated and comprehensive.	Negative Image / Public Attitude regarding child care and child care providers	CCAAYC, United Way of Southern Chautauqua County, Day Care Providers, Pre-schools
3	There will be regular contributions to the County Chamber of Commerce newsletter regarding early childhood care and education issues.	Negative Image / Public Attitude regarding child care and child care providers	NAEYC/CCAAYC, Child Care Council, United Way of Southern Chautauqua County
4	The underserved areas of the County will be identified through a mapping of Licensed/Registered Providers and pre-schools (incl. UPK).	Infrastructure: Geographic availability of child care, Transportation, Lack of infant care availability	Child Care Council
5	Diverse professional growth opportunities will be made available to child care providers.	Professional Challenges: Regulations, Salary, Small business operation skills	Child Care Council, CCAEYC

## Don't miss a beat about Trainings...

As a Technical Assistance Provider for the Child Care Council I am looking to hear what YOU as Providers would like to see being offered for future trainings.

I am open for any suggestions concerning potential trainers and/or presenters that you may like to see listed on the calendar. I will try to contact each individual trainer/presenter as I continue striving to provide a dynamic quarterly training calendar.

Please contact me with any suggestions via email [drodriguez@chautopp.org](mailto:drodriguez@chautopp.org) or 716-661-9430 ext. 292.

## Welcome New Chautauqua County Child Care Providers

### SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE

*Bemus Point After School Program*

## Welcome New CACFP Participants!

Fayanne Ammirati  
Janet Beckerink  
Joann Cettell  
Jennifer Cruz  
Sandra Dolbow  
Wendy Dloniak  
Mary Giuffre

Magdalena Hazelton  
Karen Kennedy  
Catherine King  
Carol Kozlowski  
Crystal LaMere  
Colleen Paradis  
Jennifer Scott  
Barbara Silvis

## From the NYS Department of Health:

The National Alliance for Breastfeeding Advocacy (NABA) contributed to a report written by The Cornucopia Institute on the novel oils DHA and ARA in infant formula. These oils appear to be *marketing tools* to tell mothers that formula is now "as close as ever to breast milk."

PLEASE NOTE – these lab-produced, hexane-extracted algal and fungal oils have been linked to diarrhea, vomiting and other adverse reactions in some infants, but the formula companies are not sharing the possibility of *side effects with parents*.

The report is available for free download at <http://cornucopia.org/index.php/replacing-mother-infant-formula-report/> Please take a minute to look at the action alert and craft a short email or letter to the FDA commissioner.

NABA and The Cornucopia Institute have jointly filed a petition with the FDA to require a warning label on infant formula containing these novel oils. It is the NYS Department of Health's belief that parents have the right to know that these oils may be the cause of their infant's diarrhea or other gastrointestinal problems.

The Cornucopia Institute is interested in hearing from parents whose infants suffered health problems potentially related to DHA/ARA oils in infant formula. All names will be held in strict confidence. E-mail your story, in confidence to The Cornucopia Institute, at [cultivate@cornucopia.org](mailto:cultivate@cornucopia.org).



## Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care

Through a grant from the New York State Department of Health in cooperation with the New York State Child Care Coordinating Council, three staff members of the Child Care Council and WIC (Women, infants and children nutrition program) at COI recently had the opportunity to attend a training on NAPSACC (Nutrition and Physical activity Self Assessment for Child Care).

These staff members will be working with five day care centers in the County to implement NAPSACC. As the name suggest this program is intended to help child care centers self-assess their nutrition and physical activity environment and identify areas that need improvement.

NAPSACC consultants conduct continuing education workshops like preventing childhood overweight, healthy eating, physical activity and nutrition and physical activity to fit a busy lifestyle for the center staff. The goal is to come up with ideas and motivate the center staff to implement these changes over a period of 6 months, at the end of which they have an opportunity to self-assess their improvements.

Centers can choose one or more than one of each nutrition and physical activity area to work on. NAPSACC consultants

are available for assistance and support throughout the process.

A NAPSACC pilot intervention project was carried out in 19 different North Carolina child care centers where NAPSACC consultants worked with the center director over 6 months. Most of them improved their overall NAPSACC score.

Some examples of nutrition and physical activity improvements made included adding greens to the menus, moving vending machines to less accessible areas, switching to low fat milk and whole grain breads, writing nutrition and physical activity policies and creating indoor play space.

Childhood overweight is a growing public health concern in the U.S. today. The number of preschool children classified as overweight has doubled over the past 15 years from 7 to 14 %. Nearly 3/4th of US children ages 3-6 years are in some form of child care making it the ideal setting for promoting early development of healthy weight behaviors.

The NAPSACC consultants from the Child Care Council and WIC at COP are very excited about working with child care centers in Chautauqua County on this project in the near future.

## FREE CONCERT Featuring Glenn Colton

DATE:  
Thursday, April 10, 2008  
Thursday, April 17, 2008

TIME:  
6:00pm

LOCATION:  
(April 10) Connections South  
2887 Fluvanna Townline Road,  
Jamestown

(April 17) ECCC  
1020 Central Avenue,  
Dunkirk

## News From DSS

DSS would like to inform everyone of the changes that have been going on in the Child Care Unit. Jim Johnson has now been given responsibility for the Medicaid Unit and will no longer be with Child Care. Child Care is now under the direction of Sandy Waid ([Waid@co.chautauqua.ny.us](mailto:Waid@co.chautauqua.ny.us)) with Peggy Weston ([Westonp@co.chautauqua.ny.us](mailto:Westonp@co.chautauqua.ny.us)) as the front line Supervisor for both the Jamestown and Dunkirk offices.

We are very excited about some of the challenges and changes that have taken place as of the first of the year. Our Jamestown unit has now moved back into the South County Office Building. They share a reception area on the 4th floor and there is a drop box for time sheets and other information located in that reception area also.

Both units now schedule our own Child Care Subsidy Application appointments. Anyone wishing to apply for Child Care Subsidy should now be directed to call 661-8279 in the South County and 363-3544 in the North County.

For assistance in locating a provider the Child Care Referral number remains unchanged 1-800-424-4532. Any general questions regarding time sheets, payments etc. you should continue to contact the workers directly.

## Become a Member of your State and National Association Today

Family Child Care Association of New York State, Inc. (FCCANYS) joins with the National Association to offer Affiliate Membership.

For the amount of \$60.00 providers can become members of BOTH organizations (you save \$10 when joining both organizations at the same time).

Join today by calling 518-463-4794 or by going online at [www.fccanys.org](http://www.fccanys.org)

Benefits to becoming a member include:

- Annual Conference Discounts
- Access to Group Insurance
- Discount on Accreditation Process

## Educational Incentive Program (EIP) – 2008

The Educational Incentive Program (EIP) is a scholarship program which helps providers pay for high quality training and education they need to provide quality care to children.

This year scholarships have increased for all non-college credit bearing courses, conferences, and workshops. The rate per training hour is \$28.00 which is a \$3.00 increase from last year's scholarship awards. Applicants may access up to \$2,000 per year on various ways for improving early childhood education.

Keep in mind there are upcoming conferences and "save the dates" that are listed in the Professional Development Training Calendar, which you can apply for EIP.

To download a copy of the current EIP brochure and apply for EIP scholarships on line go to: [www.tsg.suny.edu](http://www.tsg.suny.edu)



## Bulletin:

- In January, out of the total number of children parents wanted referrals for, HALF were infants.
- Parents are looking for providers who provide care during the weekdays and weekends.
- Parents want to know if providers will provide any transportation (especially to and from school).

*If you can accommodate these needs let us know!*

## Attention all Licensed/Registered Day Care Providers or Staff!!!

The Child Care Council is offering a total of 9 scholarships for the following conferences/trainings:

- **2008 Annual FCCANYS Conference on April 18 & 19, 2008.** *The Annual FCCANYS Conference will take place at The Sagamore, Bolton Landing on Lake George.* The scholarship will cover the entire registration (package A) valued at \$305.
- **The 6th Annual Western NYS School Age Care Training Institute on Saturday, April 26, 2008.** *The training event will take place in Rochester at the Airport Holiday Inn.* The scholarship will cover the entire registration valued at \$50.
- **The NYSAEYC Annual Conference on May 1-3, 2008.** *The NYSAEYC conference will take place in Buffalo at the Adam's Mark Hotel.* The scholarship will cover the entire registration (package A) valued at \$205.

\*\*In order to apply for the scholarship you **MUST** have a membership with the organization that is hosting the conference/training that you'd like to attend.

Applications will need to be received by **April 1, 2008**. You will be notified by the Council on Wednesday, April 2nd if you have been awarded the scholarship.

## ATTENTION Licensed / Registered Providers and Staff

Did you know the following information regarding  
The Chautauqua County Teachers' Center?

### New Location and Address:

Inside Jefferson Middle School  
197 Martin Road, Jamestown

### Hours:

Monday 11:00 am – 7:00 pm

(closed for lunch 1 pm - 2 pm)

Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

(closed for lunch 1 pm - 2 pm)

Entrance is on the right hand side of the Jefferson Middle School Building. Look for the red and white "Teacher Center" sign. Ring the doorbell (located on the right) and we will buzz you into our office. You can use the side entrance and the doorbell anytime of the day.

The Teachers' Center has many resources for you to use – here are a few:

- Ellison Machine (please bring your own paper)
- Poster Maker

For more information on The Chautauqua County Teachers' Center call 716-483-3270 or check us out on the web at: <http://e2ccboces.wnyric.org/cctc/index.html>

## **The New York Parent Education and Awareness Program**

### *How the Court System is Succeeding in Protecting Children Whose Parents are Going Through Divorce, Separation or Other Child-Centered Litigation*

*By: Susan L. Pollet, Counsel and Director, New York State Parent Education and Awareness Program*

You do not have to know someone who is undergoing a separation, divorce or other child-centered litigation, and you do not have to experience it yourself, to recognize that putting children in the middle of the adult conflict can be detrimental to their health and well-being.

In 2001, in New York State, the Chief Judge, Judith Kaye, in her State of the Judiciary Address, announced an initiative to institutionalize parent education and awareness programs in New York State, and the creation of an advisory board to oversee this process.

The Hon. Evelyn Frazee, a Supreme Court Justice in Rochester, is the Chair. This program is called the New York State Parent Education and Awareness Program.

**What is the New York State Parent Education and Awareness Program ("PEAP")?** It is a program designed to educate divorcing or separating parents about the impact of their breakup on their children. The primary goal is to teach parents ways they can reduce the stress of family changes and protect their children from the negative effects of ongoing parental conflict in order to foster and promote their children's healthy adjustment and development.

**What does the court system do?** Following the guidelines developed by the Advisory Board, the Office of Court Administration certifies and monitors local providers of such services who wish to accept court-referred participants. The New York State Parent Education and Awareness Program has a website at [www.nycourts.gov/ip/parent](http://www.nycourts.gov/ip/parent). It contains all of the guidelines and procedures for certification, and all of the forms that the providers of the program must use. There are currently 50 certified parent education providers in 62 counties offering classes in 94 locations. By Court Rule (July 24, 2006) Family Court Judges and Supreme Court Matrimonial Justices were empowered to order, in their discretion, parents of children under the age of eighteen years who are involved in custody, visitation, divorce, separation, annulment or child support court actions or proceedings to attend PEAP certified parent education programs. The Court Rule was subsequently revised (May 15, 2007) to clarify that judges cannot order parents to attend parent education where there is any history, or specific allegations or pleadings, of domestic violence or other abuse involving the parents or their children.

This is just a brief overview of the current status of The New York State Parent Education and Awareness Program. Experience and research have shown that parent education does make a positive difference

for children and their parents who are experiencing divorce or separation and it can help bring about a reduced need for court intervention. Currently, parent education is available in all 62 counties of New York State. We are focusing on "getting the word out" about the certified programs so that more and more parents will utilize them. If you have any suggestions about how we can accomplish this, you can contact the Program by e-mail at [nyparent-ed@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:nyparent-ed@courts.state.ny.us) or at the toll-free number at 888-809-2798, or by mail at the New York State Parent Education and Awareness Program, 140 Grand Street, Suite 701, White Plains, New York 10601. Also, you can locate information about parent education at the parent education website at [www.nycourts.gov/ip/parent-ed](http://www.nycourts.gov/ip/parent-ed). Finally, please tell parents about this important program-it can make all the difference in the lives of children and parents in this State.



## **Informational Summit on Autism to be held in April**

Working collaboratively and providing a more coordinated approach to addressing autism in the local community, several organizations have come together to hold the area's first Informational Summit on Autism April 9 and 10, 2008. "We decided to put something together that would be relevant for everybody," said Mary Rockey, The Resource Center's director of educational services and staff training, "something that pulls the different directions that we're going in under one umbrella."

The workshop's first day on April 9th will be held at the Chautauqua Suites in Mayville and will feature three concurrent sessions. Day two on April 10th will be held in the Lenna Center at Chautauqua Institution and will consist of a daylong presentation by William Stillman, who is the founder of the Pennsylvania Autism

Self-Advocacy Coalition and a person who experiences life through the autistic spectrum. Stillman's presentation is titled "Demystifying Autism from the Inside Out." Attendees will gain a greater understanding of those who live in the autism spectrum and will learn best-practice approaches through an overview of the differences and similarities among people with regard to communication, social interaction, sensory, learning and movement.

Mrs. Gage, who has 2 children both born on the autism spectrum states that "autism is not my enemy; it used to be." Mrs. Gage explains that her viewpoint changed after attending one of Stillman's workshops. She credits Stillman with changing her attitude towards autism. "One of the greatest things that he did for me as a parent is taught me how to respect my children."

The Informational Summit on Autism is geared toward a wide audience – family members, educators, students, health care professionals, and those working in the field of autism. Registration for the workshop is \$50 until March 15 and \$60 after that; the price for senior citizens and students is \$30. The cost includes continental breakfast and lunch on the day of Stillman's presentation. Chautauqua Suites is offering special lodging rates for conference attendees; for information, phone 269-7829.

Sponsors of the Informational Summit on Autism include The Resource Center, TRC Foundation and The International Order of the King's Sons and Daughters. For more information or to obtain a workshop brochure and registration form, call Paula Johnson 716-485-7231 or toll free 1-800-205-6544.

# Recalls

CPSC Recall Hotline: 1-800-638-2772

<p><b>December 13, 2007</b>  <b>Release #08-132</b>  <b>Name of Product:</b> Codeena Princess Children's Metal Jewelry  <b>Hazard:</b> The recalled jewelry contains high levels of lead.  <b>Description:</b> This recall involves the Codeena Princess children's jewelry. Only jewelry with item numbers KS1367SS and KS1369SCP are included in the recall. The item number is printed on the back of the packaging. The children's jewelry sets were sold in a variety of sets including pink or white pearl-like necklace, bracelet and earring or ring combinations.</p>	<p><b>December 27, 2007</b>  <b>Release #08-152</b>  <b>Name of Product:</b> "Warmest Jacket" Boys' Jackets  <b>Hazard:</b> The jackets have a waist drawstring with a toggle that could become snagged or caught in small spaces or doorways, which can pose an entrapment hazard to children.  <b>Description:</b> The jackets are hooded, zip in front, and have a drawstring at the waist. They were sold in navy and gray in multiple children's sizes. "Gap Outlet" is printed on a label at the neck. Style number 513573 is printed on a white label sewn behind the size and product care label near the neckline.</p>	<p><b>December 13, 2007</b>  <b>Release #08-131</b>  <b>Name of Product:</b> Bunk Beds  <b>Hazard:</b> The bunk beds have gaps between parts of the upper bunk that could allow a child's body to pass through but not a child's head, posing an entrapment or strangulation hazard.  <b>Description:</b> The recalled bunk beds come in twin-over-twin, twin-over-full and loft beds with the following model names: "Albany Park," "Swedish Accents," "Mariner's Landing," and "Chelsea's Place". The bunk beds come in cherry, white, and black finishes. Some of the bunk beds are also made of metal.</p>
<p><b>February 7, 2008</b>  <b>Release #08-186</b>  <b>Name of Product:</b> Trek MT220 Girls Bicycles  <b>Hazard:</b> The bicycle's frame can break during use, causing the rider to lose control and suffer injuries.  <b>Description:</b> This recall involves Trek girls' bicycles model MT220 and model years 2005 (light metallic blue), 2006 (metallic silver and metallic purple or pink and pearl white), and 2007 (pink and white pearl or metallic purple). The model name is printed on the frame of the bicycle. Model year 2008 bicycles are not included in this recall.</p>	<p><b>February 5, 2008</b>  <b>Release #08-183</b>  <b>Name of Product:</b> Toy Gardening Hand Rakes  <b>Hazard:</b> The paint on the gardening tool hand rake contains excessive levels of lead, violating the federal standard on lead in paint on toys.  <b>Description:</b> The recalled toy gardening tool hand rake has a wooden handle and a plastic yellow bottom. "Backyard and beyond Garden Tools" is printed on the toy's tag which hangs from the toy's handle.</p>	<p><b>December 27, 2007</b>  <b>Release #08-150</b>  <b>Name of Product:</b> Tot Tower toy blocks  <b>Hazard:</b> The plastic covering on the toy blocks can detach, posing a choking hazard to children.  <b>Description:</b> The recalled Tot Tower blocks are sold in sets of 10 blocks ranging from 6 x 6 inches to 1.5 x 1.5 inches. The cardboard blocks are covered in a plastic laminate film. "Tot Towers" and "eeBoo Corporation" are printed on the product's packaging.</p>
<p><b>February 7, 2008</b>  <b>Release #08-188</b>  <b>Name of Product:</b> Transparent Toy Egg Shakers  <b>Hazard:</b> The end cap can detach from the egg shaker and allow the small beads to spill out.  <b>Description:</b> This recall involves clear, plastic egg-shaped instruments with various color beads inside. The beads inside the shaker instrument come in five colors: red, white, green, dark blue and aqua. "Basic Beat" and "Jumbo Egg Crystal" is printed on a label attached to the plastic bag packaging. Model numbers "BB5102" and "202212" are printed on the side of the label.</p>	<p><b>December 13, 2007</b>  <b>Release #08-133</b>  <b>Name of Product:</b> Baby Toys Baby Bead &amp; Wire Toys and Speed Racer Pull Back &amp; Go Action! Cars  <b>Hazard:</b> The recalled toys contain excessive levels of lead.  <b>Description:</b> The Baby Bead &amp; Wire Toys are colored wires and colored beads that can slide on a natural wood platform. These bead toys have item number 903419 and date code 71 printed on the back of the packaging. The Speed Racer Pull Back &amp; Go Action! Cars are yellow with black stripes and white with red stripes. Item number 873820 and date code 77 is printed on the back of the packaging.</p>	<p><b>December 13, 2007</b>  <b>Release #08-135</b>  <b>Name of Product:</b> Infantino Lion Teethers  <b>Hazard:</b> The plastic nose can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children.  <b>Description:</b> This recall involves Infantino lion teethers. The yellow and orange plastic teethers have date codes 6116, 6129, 6158, 6137, 0606, 0806, 0906, and 1006. The date codes are located on the back of the lion's head, above the Infantino logo. Lion teethers with other date codes are not included in this recall.</p>
<p><b>December 7, 2007</b>  <b>Release #08-087</b>  <b>Name of Product:</b> Children's Sunglasses  <b>Hazard:</b> Surface paint on the sunglasses can contain excessive levels of lead, violating the federal lead paint standard.  <b>Description:</b> The recall involves 15 styles of children's sunglasses. The style name is printed on the product inside the left temple arm. The name "Foster Grant" may also appear on the temple arm of some styles.</p>	<p><b>December 21, 2007</b>  <b>Release #08-146</b>  <b>Name of Product:</b> Jewel brand girls' hooded sweatshirts  <b>Hazard:</b> The garments have a drawstring through the hood, which can pose a strangulation hazard to children.  <b>Description:</b> The Jewel brand girls' zippered hoodie sweatshirts have various designs on the front, and were sold in two styles: the "Big Heart" zip-up long sleeve hoodie sweatshirts (style #J2173k/sk) and the "Small Stars" long sleeve hoodie jacket sweatshirts (style #J2174k/sk).</p>	<p><b>January 8, 2008</b>  <b>Release #08-156</b>  <b>Name of Product:</b> InStep "Pathfinder," Schwinn "Run About," and Mongoose "Alley Cat" Trailer Bicycles  <b>Hazard:</b> The coupler connecting the children's trailer bike to the adult's bicycle has welds that can fail.  <b>Description:</b> The "Pathfinder," "Run About," and "Alley Cat" are single-wheeled, children's bicycles that connect to an adult's bicycle by a coupler. The recall includes model numbers: 12-PF250, 13-SC250, 13-SC350 and M5101.</p>
<p><b>December 21, 2007</b>  <b>Release #08-148</b>  <b>Name of Product:</b> Sterling Silver Teething Rings  <b>Hazard:</b> The silver ball that holds the ring in place can separate and release the beads inside. This poses a choking and aspiration hazard to infants.  <b>Description:</b> The recalled sterling silver teething rings were sold in three styles: single ring with ball, single ring with heart and ball, and three rings with ball. The hollow ring has small beads inside that make a rattling sound and a ball soldered between the rings.</p>	<p><b>December 21, 2007</b>  <b>Release #08-149</b>  <b>Name of Product:</b> Super Magnets  <b>Hazard:</b> The magnet attached to the bottom of a small toy panda can detach. If swallowed or aspirated by young children, the magnets can attract each other internally and cause intestinal perforations or blockages, which can be fatal.  <b>Description:</b> The ½-inch toys are shaped and painted to resemble panda bears. A small magnet is attached to the bottom of the toy. "Super Magnets" and the MTC logo are printed on the front of the packaging. The magnet toys are sold eight to a package.</p>	<p><b>January 15, 2008</b>  <b>Release #08-164</b>  <b>Name of Product:</b> Toy Wrestler Figures  <b>Hazard:</b> The surface paint contains high levels of lead, violating the federal lead paint standard.  <b>Description:</b> The recalled toy is a package of four action figures. Each figure is about 5 3/4 inches high. The UPC number 604111230003 is printed on the product's packaging.</p>

## News from the Buffalo OCFS Regional Office

Just a reminder...When a licensor or fire safety rep from The Buffalo Regional Office conducts an inspection of your program, it is our expectation that prior to departing, they conduct an exit interview with you. This allows for a dialogue which should include positive feedback for the developmentally appropriate practice and positive things they observe, suggestions for improving program practice, resource links and opportunities, as well as regulatory violations, areas of concern, and issues requiring corrective action and your attention.

If you are unclear or uncertain regarding information shared during the exit interview, you are encouraged to contact our office for further discussion and additional clarification.

You can do that by calling 847-3828 and asking to be connected to the inspectors supervisor.

OCFS welcomes the new Deputy Commissioner of the newly formed Division of Child Care Services, Dr. Janice Molnar. Taking charge in early September 2007, our new leader has recently completed her initial visits to all the regional offices around the state and is settling in with hopes of redefining the role of our office in establishing more meaningful partnerships with our community partners in the world of childcare.

OCFS also welcomes the former Chautauqua County Commissioner of Social Services and newly appointed Associate

Commissioner of the OCFS Office of Protective and Community Services, Kirk Mauer, to his new role.



On a parting note, we wish former Bureau of Early Childhood Services Director Suzanne Z.Sennett only the best in her new Role at OMRDD, working directly for that state agencies commissioner.

Fire Safety Crew wants to remind all to change their smoke detector batteries, keep your means of egress open, and be very careful with extension cords! Also, as old man winter is now on the scene, keep those doorways shoveled and free and clear of ice and snow.

We would like to wish all of our Chautauqua County child care providers and partners a happy, safe, prosperous New Year!!!

Sincerely,  
Bob Stoczynski  
Regional Manager - Buffalo  
New York State Office of Children and Family Services  
Division of Child Care Services

## Supervision

*Supervision 416.8 (a) & 417.8(a)* Children cannot be left without *competent* supervision at *any time*. The provider must have *direct visual contact* with the children at all times except as follows."

It may seem impossible to be with the children or able to see them at all times. It is possible, but will take some advance planning. Try the following:

- Gather all craft materials the night before.
- When preparing a meal have the children come to the table to put together puzzles or color etc.
- Have child size table and chairs so they can be moved to where you are.
- Arrange your furniture to open up your field of vision.
- Have designated bathroom times and have them sing while they wait.
- Plan your day so that you know where you will need to be.

There are three exceptions to this regulation:

- With written permission from the parent children

may nap or sleep in an area where an adult is not present. The door must be open and the provider on the same floor. There must be a functioning electronic monitor in the room.

- Children who are old enough to toilet independently may use a bathroom on another floor without direct Supervision.
- With written permission by the parents school-age children may play outside the direct supervision of the provider. The provider must physically check on them every fifteen minutes. When allowing children to play outside without direct supervision, always consider developmental level and the safety of the neighborhood.

What if the provider needs privacy? In family day care it can be a problem, so the provider must think through a plan to include whether there is a back up care giver, the floor plan of the program, individual needs of the children and group dynamics. A few ideas are:

- Interest the children in an activity in a location near the bathroom so you can hear them, singing

## How to Obtain Information On Chautauqua County's Registered Sex Offenders

The New York State's Sex Offender Registry helps protect our families and communities by requiring sex offenders to register, and providing this information to law enforcement and the public.

Sex offenders are classified by risk level:

- Level one (low risk)
- Level two (medium risk)
- Level three (high risk)

Level 1 offenders are required to register for a minimum of twenty years, and level 2 and 3 offenders for life. Police and law enforcement have access to information on all sex offenders (levels 1, 2 and 3). However, under the law, information on level 1 (low-risk) offenders is not available on the public website. Only level 2 and 3 offenders are listed on the public website.

### How do I search for a sex offender?

If you log onto the following public website, [http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/nsor/search\\_index.htm](http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/nsor/search_index.htm) you can search for level 2 and 3 offenders by last name, zip code or County. You can also call (800) 262-3257. By calling the 800 number you can obtain information on level 1, 2 and 3 offenders (the public website only lists level 2 and 3 offenders, the 800 line can give information on level 1, 2 and 3). If you call the 800 line you will need the offender's name and one of the following: an exact address, or a date of birth, or a driver's license number, or a social security number.

- or talking.
- Use a monitor near the children so you know what is going on.
- If an older family member or substitute is in the house use them.
- Set up an activity where they have to sit at a table.

OCFS issued a policy statement (#04-1) that can be found on their website that gives further examples of how to handle these situations.

Any violation of Supervision is a serious violation and not worth risking an accident. The worst question you will ever have to answer is, "Where were you when this happened?"



A Program of Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.

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