

Original: 2539

To: Jennifer Lau  
From: Sheila Zuschlag, Kids Korner Children's Center  
Re: Proposed changes to the regulations

#14-506-39

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OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

These are my comments, both pro and con. Thanks for listening!

1. Pro—Kindergarten children will be considered school age. This will make everything so much easier, and our school-age center can truly be a school-age center! This is the one regulation I have requested to be changed for years—every time someone asked my opinion of the regulations! Once children have attended kindergarten, especially full-day kindergarten, their needs are more like those of the school-age children, and less like those of the preschool children.
2. Pro—Carrying a bottle of water in the first aid kit is a good idea. I always wondered why soap was required but not water. Dry soap is not much good!
3. Pro—The proposed regulations regarding health assessments for children will make these more affordable to parents.
4. Pro—By accepting the school health report for school-age children, parents will save money by not having to take their children to the doctor when they have just had an exam at school.
5. Pro—Adult health assessments every two years with an initial TB test. This will definitely save centers and/or staff money (depending on who pays for them). It also puts child care more into line with public school requirements.
6. Con—A program plan for each child. I feel this should not be a DPW regulation, since DPW regulates health and safety. A program plan for a child with special needs may include health and safety issues, so the regulation should be only for children with special needs. As proposed, this will take a tremendous amount of time, especially initially. If it becomes a regulation, I think that the plan should be done yearly (at the start of the preschool year), not every 6 months. Evaluations could be done more often, and plans adjusted accordingly, but the plan involving all the staff and parents should be yearly, due to the time factor. (I feel that this should be a Keystone STARS requirement for a Star 3 or 4, not a DPW regulation.)
7. Comment—"e" under Child Health seems redundant. Wasn't this addressed in Health Information "a"? (60 day requirement)
8. Request—Please don't put things like "28 Pa. Code 23.2" or "67 Pa. Code Chapter 171". We, as providers, do not know where to find such things. Please just quote the regulation from the code.
9. Question—Why are children not allowed to ride in a 11-15 passenger van?