

3216

14-542-27

Graeff, Melissa

From: susanmcdc4@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, November 1, 2018 3:59 PM
To: PW, CC Reg Changes
Subject: Proposed Changes

RECEIVED
IRRS
2018 NOV -6 P 2:22

Good Afternoon-
This e-mail is in regard to the proposed changes to child care facility regulations under Pa. Code Chapters 3270, 3280 and 3290.

With regard to Emergency Plans-
I hope the proposed requirement of annual drills will not include the children. We do annual drills now for all of our Emergency Plan procedures. We do, of course, do fire drills **with** the children.....evacuating them to the outside and then a safe location if necessary. However, our drills which could possibly involve an armed intruder either inside or outside of the building are done **only with staff**. I do not think there is enough of a benefit in safety to be seen by doing "active shooter drills" with children aged 2, 3 and 4. Many studies are now being done on the trauma this creates in such young children.

Whenever there is a school shooting, parents always come to our centers and want to know if we do drills with the children. But, when we calmly explain that the teachers drill but not the children and why this is our policy, they do usually understand.

If drilling in active shooter situations is something DHS adopts, I hope that there will be some guidelines on how to approach this with such young children.....however, I truly hope that they will not be included in the drilling requirement.

Thank you.

Susan M. Dinofrio, Executive Director, Child Development Council of NEPA, Inc.