



WEEKLY UPDATE – DECEMBER 24, 2008

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The Department of Health will be closed on the following days:
December 25-26, 2008 and January 1-2, 2009

PREPAID THERAPIES PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

The revised target implementation date for the Prepaid Therapies Program has been moved to February 1, 2009. Please visit the Florida Medicaid Prepaid Therapies website at http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/prepaid_therapies/index.shtml for ongoing updates.

INACTIVE STATUS DISPOSITION CODE

The disposition code "1 – Inactive" will be available for use in the Early Steps data system on December 24th, 2008. This category includes all children who have been determined eligible for Part C, an IFSP has been developed, and the child and family have been unable to be located. This code is for temporary use and must be changed by the time the child has turned three. Please see the attached supplemental materials for more information.

THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFE KIDS FLORIDA OFFER TOY AND GIFT SAFETY REMINDERS

--For Toy Safety, Follow Manufacturer's Instructions--

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Health (DOH) and Safe Kids Florida remind Floridians to put safety first when purchasing toys and gifts for children during the holiday season. Parents and caregivers can ensure they are choosing safe toys for their children by paying close attention to warning labels and manufacturer's guidelines.

"With more than 65 percent of the toys bought in the United States between the Friday after Thanksgiving and Christmas, parents and caregivers are heading into the busiest toy-buying season," said Deputy Secretary for Health, Jean Kline, R.N., B.S.N., M.P.H. "Even though most toys in the U.S. today are considered to be safe, buyers should still be careful. Only a small fraction of the approximate 3 billion toys sold in the U.S. every year are recalled from dangerous lead paint and magnets, but this still amounts to millions of toys."

Toy Safety Tips:

- **Buy age-appropriate toys:** All toys should be clearly marked if they have small parts. Do not buy toys with small parts for young children (or allow a child under age three to play with those kinds of toys belonging to an older sibling).
- **Identify dangerous small parts:** To be sure of a toy's size, use a small parts tester. (Helpful hint: 35mm film canisters or empty toilet paper tubes also work to measure small parts). Do not let small children play with anything that can fit into one of these cylinders.
- **Inspect toys to ensure they are in good repair:** Due to the risk of strangulation, do not let young children play with toys that have straps, cords or strings longer than seven inches.
- **Actively supervise children:** Caregivers should actively supervise children playing with any toy that has small or moving parts, electrical or battery power, cords, wheels or any other potentially risky component. Simply being in the same room as the child is not necessarily supervising. Active supervision means paying undivided attention by keeping the child in sight and within reach.
- **Practice proper storage:** To help prevent falls and unsupervised play, teach children to put toys away after playing and ensure that toys intended for younger children are stored separately from those for older children. Toy chests should be equipped with safety hinges that prevent the lid from closing on a child who is leaning over the open chest. If a chest does not have safety hinges, remove the lid.

Each year, approximately 217,000 toy-related injuries are treated in hospital emergency rooms nationwide. On average, however, only 15 children under the age of 14 die from a toy-related injury. Adults should pay attention to the instructions specified by the manufacturer, including a minimum age requirement or other restrictions.

To stay informed, Safe Kids Florida recommends that parents and caregivers sign up for emails that will keep them up-to-date on recalls. Relying solely on updates from television, newspapers or other sources may result in missed information. To sign up for recall emails, visit www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx.

Also do not hesitate to report defects or design features that seem dangerous. Report toy safety concerns to the Consumer Product Safety Commission at 1-800-638-2772 or www.cpsc.gov. Your experience could be part of a pattern that might lead to a recall.

DOH promotes, protects and improves the health of all people in Florida. For more information about toy safety, visit the Safe Kids website at www.safekids.org. Safe Kids Florida works to prevent accidental childhood injury, the leading killer of children 14 and under. The organization is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing accidental injury. Safe Kids Florida's lead organization is the DOH Office of Injury Prevention. For more information, visit the DOH website at www.doh.state.fl.us/injury.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME LIESL RAMOS

Please welcome Liesl Ramos to the Performance Improvement Unit in the Early Steps State Office. Liesl will be serving as Program Manager for several Local Early Steps programs as well as participating in compliance monitoring and continuous improvement activities for Early Steps. Included in Liesl's work history are 9 years in the Developmental Disabilities Program at DCF (now the Agency for Persons with Disabilities), 5 years in the private sector with a provider agency for APD, and most recently, as a Health Care Analyst with AHCA.

NECTAC NEWS

For the most current issues of NECTAC eNotes go to <http://www.nectac.org/enotes/enotes.asp>

UPCOMING MEETINGS, TRAININGS AND CONFERENCES

CONVERSATION WITH FAMILIES

A Conversation with Families is an opportunity for families to share their experiences, wisdom, and vision about Early Steps.

The ESSO Weekly Memo will be on vacation next week but will return in the New Year.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to 2009!!