

Wright County Child Care Newsletter

July 2014

Summer Fun ~ Sponge Ball

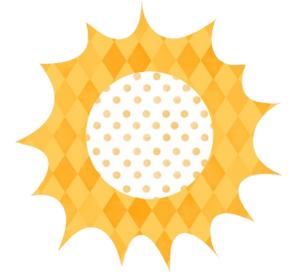
Great for a game of tag on a scorching hot day, squishy sponge balls are summer's alternative to snowballs. Made from kitchen sponges that are cut up and tied together, they last longer than water balloons and are softer and splashier than regular balls. Best of all, after tossing them around, the kids will be as clean as the kitchen dishes. Tip: Use new sponges, and be sure not to wet them ahead of time; they are easier to cut straight out of the package.



Step 1: With a pen and a rule, make five lines lengthwise on a sponge, each $\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart.

Step 2: Use scissors to cut the sponge, using the lines as a guide, into six rods. Repeat with the other sponges.

Step 3: Lay strips on top of each other in three layers, five to six to a layer. Cinch them across the middle with a piece of string; knot it tightly. Fluff pieces out into a ball.



Materials:

Three: $\frac{1}{2}$ by 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch sponges

Pen

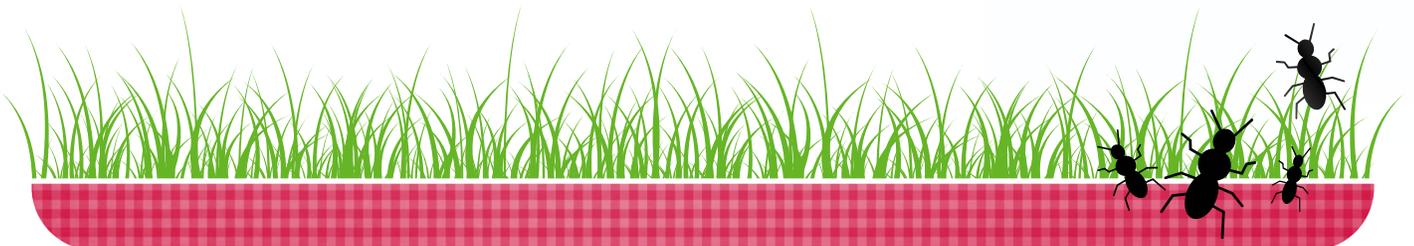
Ruler

Scissors

String

Source:

Martha Stewart Kids,
Volume 8 2003



Tips for Keeping Children Safe: A Developmental Guide (ECTA Center ENews, May 9, 2014)

Source: Office of Head Start, National Center on Health - May 7, 2014
A new resource, [Tips for Keeping Children Safe: A Developmental Guide](#) (2014), describes daily routines for children within four age groups (infants, mobile infants, toddlers, and preschoolers) and provides safety tips that specifically address the developmental needs of children in a specific age group, as well as tips that apply to all children. It was developed by the Office of Head Start's National Center on Health for early childhood staff working with young children in classroom environments.

Active Supervision (Supervising for Safety)

As providers are looking to complete the new supervision training requirement, you may have been confused (as we were) regarding the different options. Child Care Aware has titled the 6 hour PRE-SERVICE supervision training as "Supervising for Safety". This is the course required for new applicants. Current providers are welcome to take this course to meet their supervision requirement; however there is a 2 hour option that will meet the supervision training requirement for currently licensed providers. The 2 hour courses are labeled as "Active Supervision". Currently there are 3 separate "Active Supervision" courses, with more planned for the future. This will allow providers to take a different course each year. Please refer to your Child Care Aware training catalog or www.mnstreams.org for available training dates. Remember, this training is due to be completed by 7/1/15, and annually thereafter.

Child Growth and Development and Behavior Guidance Training Requirement

By 7/1/15, and annually thereafter, providers are required to complete training in Child Growth and Development, and Behavior Guidance. The Department of Human Services has clarified for us what training is approved to meet this training requirement.

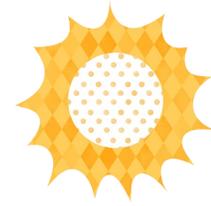
When looking at training through Child Care Aware, any training in Core Competency area I, Child Growth and Development, will meet the Child Growth and Development requirement. Any training in Core Competency area IV, Interactions with Children, will meet the Behavior Guidance requirement. You will need to complete a training in each category to meet the new requirement.

Another option for current providers is the 4 hour pre-service training course, Developmentally Appropriate Behavior Guidance. This course is required for new applicants, but will also meet the annual requirement for current providers.

Please contact your licensor with any questions.



Upcoming Training:



C.A.R.S (Children and Restraint Systems)

Date: July 23 Time: 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM

OR

Date: Sept 10 Time: 5:00 PM- 8:00 PM

Location: Wright County Human Services
1004 Commercial Drive

Buffalo, MN 55313

Contact: 763-682-7516 or
terri.burkhart@co.wright.mn.us

Cost: \$15.00 for Wright County residents and
\$20.00 for providers outside of Wright County

To make sure there is available space in each class, you must pre-register by calling Terri Burkhardt or emailing. Class fees are non-refundable unless you reschedule. A minimum of ten participants need to be registered in order to hold class. Class will be canceled one week prior to class if the minimum is not met. No admittance after class has started. Note: These trainings are approved on the MNCPD Registry.

SUID/AHT (Sudden Unexpected Infant Death and Abusive Head Trauma) Training

Date: July 23 OR Aug 20 OR Sept 17

Time: 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Location: Wright County Human Services
1004 Commercial Drive

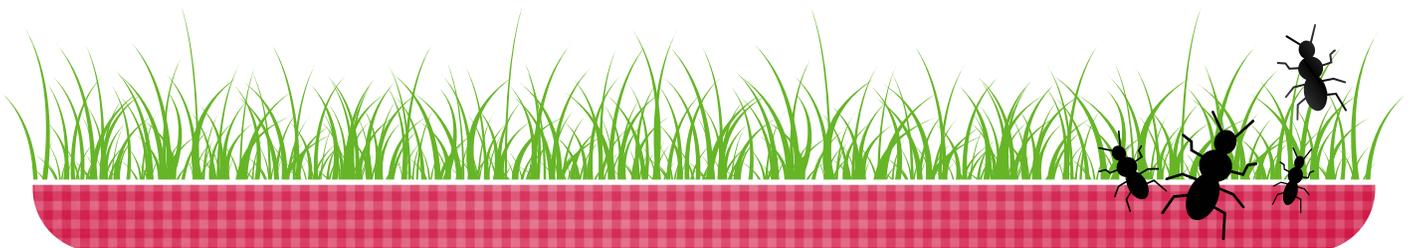
Buffalo, MN 55313

Contact: 763-682-7516 or
terri.burkhart@co.wright.mn.us

Cost: The total for both classes is \$10.00

Please register by calling or emailing Terri Burkhardt.

If you are not familiar with the training location, please ask for directions and plan extra travel time. Training does not have to be taken in the county in which you are licensed. Registration is required in order to make sure that enough materials and space are available. Payment can be made over the phone. Class fees are non-refundable unless you reschedule. A minimum of 10 participants need to be registered in order to hold class. Class will be canceled one week prior to class if the minimum is not met. There is no admittance to class after 6:05 pm for the evening classes. Note: These trainings are approved on the MNCPD Registry



Reportable Disease Contact Number Change

9502.0435 SANITATION AND HEALTH.

Subp. 16. Care of ill children, medicine administration.

The following provisions must be followed for the care of ill children and the administration of medicine.

- E. The provider shall notify the authorized agent or Minnesota Department of Health of any suspected case of reportable disease

The contact phone number has changed for reporting serious contagious illnesses. Reports should be made to Public Health Nurse, Catherine Main at either 763-682-7469 or catherine.main@co.wright.mn.us.

Please update your Provider Handbook, chapter #12 Reporting Requirements.



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2014 Legislative Updates

The 2014 legislative session has again brought some changes to statute that will affect child care providers. The Department of Human Services is still sorting out the changes. The good news is that the changes are nothing like 2013! As soon as we know more, we will pass the information on to providers.

One change that was sent out earlier this summer is the change to the school age definition. Effective 7/1/14, the definition of school age is as follows:

MN Statute 245A.02, subd 19:

(f) "School age" means a child who is at least ~~of sufficient age to have~~
~~attended the first day of kindergarten, or is eligible to enter kindergarten~~
~~within the next four months~~ five years of age, but is younger than 11 years of age.

Children who are four years old on July 1, 2014, and who have previously been determined to be school age under current law (because they are eligible to attend kindergarten within four months), will remain classified as school age after July 1, 2014. Any new children enrolled on or after July 1, 2014, must be five years old to be considered school age.



Age Appropriate Play Equipment

The weather is finally cooperating, and everyone is excited to spend more time outside! Providers are able to go for walks, let kids run through the sprinkler and explore new parks. As you are enjoying your outside activities make sure you take a quick look at the equipment that the children are using. Pay close attention to the age guidelines for park equipment. The equipment is often separated between ages 2-5 and ages 5-12. It would not be appropriate or safe for a child under the age of 5 to use playground equipment that is rated for ages 5 and older. For the safety of the children and for your own liability, remember to read the labels. Also, remember to consider the developmental level of the children in care. A child might be of the correct chronological age to use a certain toy or equipment, but if they are not developmentally ready, it is better to wait.

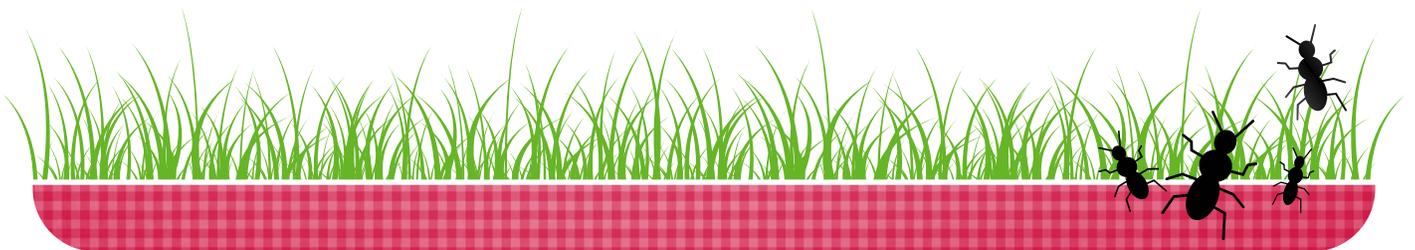
9502.0415 ACTIVITIES AND EQUIPMENT.

Subpart 1. General activities.

Day care activities must provide for the physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development of the child. The environment must facilitate the implementation of the activities. Activities must:

- A. Be scheduled indoors and outdoors, weather permitting;
- B. Be appropriate to the developmental stage and age of the child;**
- C. Include active and quiet activity; and
- D. Contain provider-directed and child-initiated activity.

Subp. 3. Equipment. The provider must have the equipment specified in this part in adequate quantities for the number and ages of children in care and to carry out the activities specified in this part. Equipment may be new, used, commercial, or homemade, as long as it is **appropriate for the ages of the children** and activities for which it will be used, safe, and in good repair.



EXAMPLES OF AGE APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT



Toddler Ages 6 ~ 23 months

- Climbing equipment under 32" high
- Ramps
- Single file step ladders
- Spiral slides less than 360°
- Spring rockers
- Stairways
- Swings with full bucket seats



Preschool Ages 2 ~ 5 years

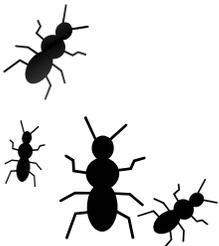
- Certain climbers
- Horizontal ladders less than or equal to 60" high for ages 4 and 5
- Merry-go-rounds
- Ramps
- Rung ladders
- Single file step ladders
- Slides
- Spiral slides up to 360°
- Spring rockers
- Stairways
- Swings ~ belt, full bucket seats (2 ~ 4 years) and rotating tire



Grade School Ages 5 ~ 12 years

- Arch climbers
- Chain or cable walks
- Free standing climbing events with flexible parts
- Fulcrum seesaws
- Ladders ~ Horizontal, Rung, and Step
- Overhead rings
- Merry-go-rounds
- Ramps
- Ring treks
- Slides
- Spiral slides more than on 360° turn
- Stairways
- Swings ~ belt and rotating tire
- Track rides
- Vertical sliding poles

Information found at cpsc.gov in the Public Playground Safety Handbook





Data from the Infant Feeding Practices study found that mothers still breastfeeding at 6 months was significantly associated with support from child care providers to feed expressed breast milk to infants and allow mothers to breastfeed on-site before or after work!

Dear Wright County Child Care Providers,

We are excited to offer an opportunity to all Wright County Child Care Providers to participate in a **free** training that will introduce the importance of breastfeeding to children, mothers and child care programs.

Topics will include:

- ♥ The benefits of breastfeeding
- ♥ Risks of not breastfeeding
- ♥ Safe handling and storage of breast milk
- ♥ Child hunger and satiety cues
- ♥ Strategies for supporting breastfeeding families
- ♥ Resources for child care staff and breastfeeding families

These trainings are approved by the Minnesota Center for Professional Development, may be used for Parent Aware 3/4 rating and relicensing hours.

Class Times and Locations For Supporting Breast Feeding in Child Care Programs

Tuesday, September 23,
2014

6:30 - 8:30 PM

Knights of Columbus Hall

301 N 5th ST.

Waverly, MN

Thursday, September
25, 2014

6:00-8:00 PM

Wright County Human

Service Building

1004 Commercial Drive

Buffalo, MN

Tuesday, September 30,
2014

6:30-8:30 PM

Community Education

Building

60 Central AV W

St. Michael, MN

Register by calling Stephanie at 763-682-7460
Wright County Public Health



Minnesota Child Care Aware together with Sherburne County HHS and Wright County Public Health are offering the following training:



I AM MOVING, I AM LEARNING

IMIL is an evidence-based, developmentally appropriate physical activity program for preschool-age children, originally developed for Head Start.

This highly interactive training will provide you with the knowledge and experience you need to incorporate more physical activity into the daily routines at your child care or preschool. You will participate in lively group activities, discuss and plan strategies for your child care or preschool, and take with you all of the resources you will need to implement IMIL.

Co-sponsored by:   

Saturday, July 26, 2014

8:00 – 4:30

Sherburne County Government Center

Board Room

13880 Business Center Drive, Elk River MN

Space is Limited - - Call 877-311-2244 to register by July 18th, 2014.

Lunch will be provided

\$30 Registration Fee

Includes:

- ♥ 8 hours of training
- ♥ 3 music CD's
- ♥ CD of reproducible handouts