

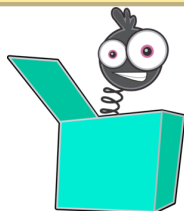
SC Voucher Payment Rate Increases

The Div. of Early Care & Education has received approval to increase the maximum payment rates paid by the SC Voucher Program. If the rates you charge your private pay clients are higher than what you are currently being paid for SC Voucher children, you may be eligible for an increase. Once approved, your new rates will be effective for ALL current voucher children in your program. To apply for an increase, call the SC Voucher Control Center at 800-262-4416 or email Christi.Jeffcoat@dss.sc.gov.

T.E.A.C.H. Increases Scholarship Eligibility

T.E.A.C.H. has created a new scholarship model to empower early learning teachers to receive higher education. In the past, providers had to commit to pay a percentage of tuition & textbooks as well as either a raise or bonus for the teacher. This compensation posed a challenge for many child care providers. Child care providers now have a third option to pay an increased percentage (25%) of the teacher's tuition & textbooks, and T.E.A.C.H. will provide the bonus to the teacher. This applies for Associate and Bachelor Degree Scholarship recipients. For more information, contact CCCCD at 866-845-1555.

Product Recalls Related to Child Care



DSS Regulation 114-507C(2) states that furniture, toys and recreational equipment shall meet the standards of the US Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), if applicable, and that recalled products shall not be accessible to children. For more information, call CPSC's hotline at 800-638-2772 or visit their website: www.cpsc.gov. To report a dangerous product or related injury, go to <http://saferproducts.gov>.

- ◇ **Perrigo Guaifenesin** sold as store-brand syrup by Rite-Aid, Kroger, Dollar General & CVS due to dosage cup defect.
- ◇ **Bexco Expands DaVinci Crib** due to entrapment, fall & laceration hazards caused by brackets
- ◇ **Safety 1st Decor Wood highchairs** due to fall hazard caused by tray
- ◇ **Golden Horse Denim pants** due to choking hazard caused by zipper pull
- ◇ **Build-A-Bear Starbrights Dragon stuffed animal** due to choking hazard caused by satin seam
- ◇ **LaRose Industries Peanuts flying ace ride-on toys** due to choking hazard caused by hubcaps
- ◇ **Maeli Rose Girls' hoodies** due to strangulation hazard caused by drawstring around the neck
- ◇ **Ignite Kids' straw tumblers** due to risk of ingestion caused by straw particles

Partner Spotlight on ABC Quality

ABC Quality is SC's quality rating and improvement system for child care across the state. It is a voluntary program that works with child care providers to improve the quality of care they provide to children. Providers that participate in ABC Quality receive free technical assistance, marketing, and training, as well as eligibility for SC Vouchers and scholarships for higher education opportunities. Parents should look for providers that participate in ABC Quality because ABC Quality providers demonstrate their commitment to creating higher quality experiences. For more information visit scchildcare.org or abcquality.org.

Be a Part of S.C.'s State Plan

DSS serves as the lead agency responsible for the administration of the Child Care and Development Fund. The Child Care and Development Block Grant of 2014 requires that each state design a plan to be implemented during a three year period (2016-2018) describing how the program will be administered. The plan is posted at www.scchildcare.org and www.abcquality.org. Questions or comments about the plan may be submitted to Leigh.Bolick@dss.sc.gov before March 1.

SCARLET FEVER — WHEN STREP THROAT INFECTS THE SKIN*

Scarlet fever is an infection occasionally caused by strep throat. The strep bacteria produces a toxin that leads to a red skin rash. Children aged 5-15 are most vulnerable to this illness.

Scarlet fever may first look like a bad sunburn with tiny itchy bumps. The rash may appear on the face and neck, then begin to spread to the chest and back, and, ultimately, the rest of the body. Around the 6th day, the rash may begin to fade, but the skin affected may peel for up to 10 days. The infection can lead to serious long-term health problems if left untreated.

How Is Scarlet Fever Spread?

- ☞ Contact with droplets from an ill person's cough or sneeze
- ☞ Touching your mouth, nose or eyes after coming in contact with an infected person
- ☞ Eating or drinking after an infected person
- ☞ Through skin contact with an infected person's rash

Symptoms

- ☞ Sore throat and stomach ache



- ☞ Red rash with rough texture like sandpaper
- ☞ Vomiting and exhaustion, fever and chills
- ☞ Tongue with whitish or yellowish coating
- ☞ Swollen tonsils and throat that may have whitish coating or appear red and dotted with whitish or yellowish specks
- ☞ Swollen lymph nodes and painful swallowing
- ☞ A bumpy red tongue (referred to as "strawberry tongue")

Prevention Practices

- ☞ Keep children away from infected people
- ☞ If ill, see a doctor for a strep test
- ☞ Frequently wash hands with soap & water for 20 seconds
- ☞ If soap & water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- ☞ Keep infected children home after visiting the doctor
- ☞ Keep the ill child's belongings (i.e. toothbrush, drinking glass and eating utensils) separate from other's belongings and wash these items thoroughly in hot soapy water