

What is a Child Care Wellness Consultant (CCWC)?

A Child Care Wellness Consultant (CCWC) is a specially trained Registered Nurse (RN) with knowledge of developmental, health and safety issues unique to caring for young children in group child care settings. The CCWC is also familiar with State Licensing Guidelines, and [Caring for Our Children National Health and Safety Performance Standards](#) as well as other health and safety resources available to support child care programs to improve the health and safety aspects of their program.

Child Care Wellness Consultants are approved by the Child Development Division of the Agency of Human Services and the Vermont Department of Health to provide funded services in this project.

What can a Child Care Wellness Consultant do for my child care program?

A CCWC can help improve the health and safety of children in your care by:

- Collaborating and networking with you to address health and safety topics of interest to you, your staff and families
- Providing referrals to community services
- Assisting in the development or updating of health policies and procedures for child care programs
- Interpreting best practice standards and providing technical advice, separate and apart from the role of a state licensor
- Helping to ensure that children with special health care needs have a plan and that child care programs have the resources needed to implement the plan
- Consulting with a child's health professional about medication (with written permission)
- Meeting on-site with child care programs about health and safety topics
- Assessing the needs of child care providers and parents/guardians for health and safety training
- Providing informational resources for providers and families including but not limited to Bright Futures resource materials http://brightfutures.aap.org/tool_and_resource_kit.html

Who is eligible for Child Care Wellness Consultant Services and how do I request services?

Child Care Wellness Consultant services are available to all registered and/or licensed Family Home and Center-based providers. To request a visit from a Child Care Wellness Consultant: Contact the Vermont Child Care Industry and Careers Council at 985-2700 or email vccicc@comcast.net

Who pays for Child Care Wellness Consultant services?

This project is supported through funding received through the Early Childhood Comprehensive System and the Early Learning Challenge-Race to the Top grants, the Child Development Division, Department for Children and Families. The Vermont Agency of Human Services is sponsoring this project in partnership with the Vermont Child Care Industry and Careers Council.

For all programs currently enrolled and rated in the STARS system, CCWC services will be paid for by the Child Development Division during this pilot phase, through June 30, 2015 and therefore *free to*

STARS participating providers. CCWC services are available to any child care provider. However for those not currently enrolled and rated in STARS, the provider will be responsible for paying for the services which include both on site and prep and follow up hours .(currently billed at \$50/hour).

In order to offer these services at no cost to STARS providers, it is essential that we gather data on how this pilot is working to inform future funding and program guidelines. Therefore, all programs will need to complete the following in order to participate:

- A short intake form to request services
- A program health and safety review including a review of your program's nutrition and physical activity practices
- A short follow up outcome form evaluating the services

Before your scheduled visit you will need to conduct a review of your program practices related to the Health and Safety topics for which you would like consultation services. A program review may consist of one or a combination of the following examples which focus on the health and safety aspects of your program and a CCWC can provide you with *checklists* that you can use as a resource for this review:

- STARS self assessment
- **Plans to improve nutrition and increase physical activity**
- A review of your program's Health and Safety policies and related practices
- A review of your program's Medication Administration procedures including: authorization forms, receiving, storing, administering and training of staff
- A review of Individual Care Plans for children with special health care needs
- A review of the health forms and immunization records for children in your care
- A review/observation of your program's infection control practices such as hand washing, diapering, toileting, cleaning and sanitizing
- A review of your emergency plans and grab and go supplies.
- A review of the environmental safety practices in your program such as integrated pest management, cleaning supplies used, water sources, etc.
- Other health related aspects of your program

This will help you and your CCWC make the best use of your time together.