



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

Ministry of Health

Department of Health

March 8, 2019

Dear Daycare Providers and Daycare Centers:

Re: March 2019 letter from the Director of Health to Daycare Providers and Daycare Centers

Thank you for everything that you do to provide quality care for our children.

Thank you also for the goodwill and collaboration that has been evident during the implementation of the Child Care standards 2017 / 18 (<https://www.gov.bm/sites/default/files/Child%20Care%20Standards%202018%20V2%20180704.pdf>) and the recent reset of the childcare oversight system that has been coordinated and led by Robyn Skinner, Program Manager for Child Care.

In conjunction with the Ministerial statement read in the House of Assembly today (<https://www.gov.bm/articles/ministerial-statement-minister-health-child-care-regulations>) I am writing to make you aware of two matters.

First there is a plan to review and rewrite Bermuda's Child Care laws in line with existing Child Care standards that will be applicable to a wider range of childcare settings. The success of this project will hinge on your participation and will commence in earnest later this year and after the licensing and registration of the presently regulated settings is in order.

The second matter is that the Information Commissioner's view is that items on file – inspection reports, water samples and complaints, for childcare settings that the Ministry of Health previously saw as privileged information, are now subject to full disclosure via PATI requests.

You will receive official letters from the Ministry of Health regarding the specifics that will be released for your day care center or as a day care provider before it is released to the PATI requestor. We are sending this notice so we have direct contact with you to explain the upcoming releases.

The Ministerial statement is one step we are taking to provide context for the documents set for release. The public needs to be aware that the inspections, water samples and even complaints may be a snapshot in time and not show the improvements that were made following the visits by our officers.

We must do our best to establish a culture of learning and continuous improvement in the childcare sector.

25 Church Street, Hamilton, HM 12, Bermuda
P.O. Box HM 1195, Hamilton HM EX, Bermuda

Phone: (441) 278-4900 • Fax: (441) 292-2629 • E-mail: dskendell@gov.bm

Our children cannot advocate for themselves obviously. The three parties that are stewards to assuring their upbringing and enrichment in quality childcare settings are; the provider's, the parents and the Government. It is in our children's interests that the three parties continue to work together harmoniously and in a culture of learning and trust and now in the present environment of full transparency and scrutiny by the media.

I am confident that if we keep our focus on the children and their needs while working together for their benefit, we can continue to make lasting improvements in the child care system.

If you have any questions or views related to the PATI requests the contact person at the Ministry of Health is Joshua Correia, 278-4900.

Sincerely,



David Kendell
Director

Government of Bermuda | Department of Health
Continental Building | 25 Church Street | Hamilton, Bermuda HM 12

Direct Telephone 441.278.5385 | Cell: 441.531.9385 | E-mail: dskendell@gov.bm
Ministry of Health 441.278.4900
www.gov.bm