



PIMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PIMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Child Care Health Consultant Program Expands

Tucson, Ariz. – August 17, 2009 – Pima County Health Department Child Care Health Consultant Program is currently expanding thanks to funding from First Things First. It was in November 2006, that Arizona voters passed Proposition 203; a citizen's initiative that funds quality early childhood development and health.

In Pima County, the Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) is a Public Health Nurse who has extensive experience working with health and safety issues in various child care settings. Child care topics range from immunization requirements, behavior concerns, infectious diseases, reducing the risk of Sudden Infant Death and obesity as well as addressing staff health issues and concerns. The Child Care Health Consultant actively works to promote the health and well-being of both child care providers and the children they serve.

Nurse Consultants work with individual child care facilities to help create environments that best support the healthy growth and development of young children. They partner with child care providers to:

- Assess the health and safety needs and practices in the child care facility.
- Develop strategies for inclusion of children with special care needs.
- Establish and review health policies and procedures.
- Manage and prevent injuries and infectious diseases.
- Connect families with community health resources.
- Provide health education for staff members, families and children.

Contacts for the program are Kathi Ford, RN: Child Care Health Consultation Program - email Kathi.Ford@pima.gov and Thomas M. Ball, MD, MPH: Pediatrician & Arizona AAP Child Care Liaison tball@email.arizona.edu. Information is also available by calling 243-7901 or by logging onto www.pimahealth.org/pubhealthnursing/index.html

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