



The National Association for Regulatory Administration

LICENSING NEWSLETTER

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Child Care Licensing in Florida Has Gone High Tech! www.myflorida.com/childcare

The Office of Child Care Services in Tallahassee has contracted with MAP Software, Inc., to utilize their **TunKey Inspection Systems** for a child care licensing inspection system with reports that can be accessed on the Internet. Phase I of this project began in June 2001. Each state child care licensing counselor received a "Toughbook" touch screen laptop and portable printer on which to complete child care licensing inspections at child care facilities and family day care homes.

How does the system work? The child care licensing counselors conduct the inspections using the Toughbook. The licensing inspection sheets are programmed into the Toughbook utilizing **SansWrite** forms development and inspection software. During the inspection, if there is a standard in non-compliance, the statute or administrative code screen pops up to indicate the law which is in non-compliance. Counselors then have an option of typing more information on that screen, such as the due date for compliance. Once the inspection is completed, two copies are printed on site and signed

by the director and licensing counselor; one for the director and one for the licensing file. The inspection report is uploaded to the web site for public viewing. The five most recent inspection reports may be viewed at the web site.

Phase II will begin in July 2002. Enhancements have been added to include complaint reports, religious exempt information, and pre-licensing activities. During this phase, local licensing agencies (other governmental agencies), that provide child care licensing services, will also come onboard. At that time, all child care licensing inspections will be available on the web site.

In addition to providing information to the public, this system also provides statistical reports, listings of facilities, and licensing due dates.

We are very excited about this new child care licensing system, as it will provide a service to the public in accessing information on child care choices. It also promotes consistent application of the standards by our staff and will assist in targeting areas of needed training.

Come visit our web site!