

News from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Louisiana State Police
Two very good things for young children!



Criminal Background Check Available Online!

The LA State Police, Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information, will make accessible background check information via the internet. Providers must register and have a credit card to use the service which will be available by the end of the month.

View a copy of the letter announcing the service at www.laccrra.org

NACCRRA's Recommendation

Their *We Can Do Better* report found that background check requirements vary greatly by state. Only 3 states and the District of Columbia conduct full background checks (criminal history, child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and state and federal fingerprints) on child care providers in centers.

NACCRRA's Recommendation:

1. Require all paid providers caring for unrelated children on a regular basis to have a complete background check before working alone with children.
2. Background checks should include a criminal history check, federal and state fingerprints, as well as a check of the child abuse registry and sex offender registries.
3. Lists of cleared providers should be made publicly available on the internet so that parents can make informed choices.

AAP Healthy Childcare Website

This resource <http://www.healthychildcare.org/> has information for parents, child care professionals, health professionals and resources! Be sure to sign up for their e newsletter: *Health and Safety E-News for Caregivers*. The American Academy of Pediatrics handout *Preventing the Flu in 2007-2008: Strategies and Resources for Child Care Providers and Out-of-Home Caregivers of Children* has been updated and is now available at the healthy child care site and at www.laccrra.org. Please share this handout with your colleagues to educate them on the importance of the flu vaccine.