

2005 Child Care Licensing Study Florida

Data Profile for State Licensing Programs and Policies

Click on link to go to information on the state's licensing program:

- [State Licensing Agency](#)
- [Number of Licensed Facilities](#)
- [Licensing Staff](#)
- [Number of Licensing Staff](#)
- [Types of Inspections](#)
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- [Licensing Staff Requirements](#)
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STATE LICENSING AGENCY



LICENSING AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION		
Agency name: Florida Department of Children and Families		
Address: 1317 Winewood Boulevard Building 1, Room 202		
City: Tallahassee	State: FL	Zip: 32399-0700
Phone: 850-487-1111	Toll Free:	
Fax: 850-922-2993	E-mail:	
Web site: http://www.myflorida.com/childcare/		

NUMBER OF LICENSED FACILITIES



NUMBER OF LICENSED FACILITIES	
Child care centers	4,248
Family child care homes	2,224
Large/group family child care homes	185
<i>Other types of licensed facilities:</i> Registered family child care homes	2,535
Total number of licensed facilities	6,657
Data notes:	

Key:

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LICENSED CAPACITY	
Child care centers	400,578
Family child care homes	20,961
Large/group family child care homes	2,205
<i>Other types of licensed facilities:</i>	25,168
Total licensed capacity	423,744
Data notes:	

LICENSING STAFF



LICENSING LINE STAFF ASSIGNMENT	
Line staff assignments to inspect child care facilities:	
Assigned to inspect only child care centers	
Assigned to inspect only family child care homes	
Assigned to inspect both centers and family child care homes	
Assigned to inspect child care facilities and other human service programs for children	
Assigned to inspect child care facilities and other human service programs for children and/or adults	
Assignments vary by county or area of the state	✓
Assigned specifically to conduct complaint investigations	
<i>Other type of assignment:</i>	
Data notes:	

NUMBER OF LICENSING STAFF



NUMBER OF LINE STAFF	
Total number of full-time equivalent line staff	78
Data notes:	

LINE STAFF ESTIMATED CASELOAD	
Estimated caseload ratio (number of facilities per staff)	118:1
Data notes: The caseload was calculated by NARA/NCCIC by dividing the total number of licensed programs by the total number of licensing line staff.	

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NUMBER OF SUPERVISORS	
Total number of full-time equivalent licensing supervisors	18
Data notes: There are a total of 12 full-time supervisors; there are a total of six full-time supervisors for small family child care homes; there are no part-time supervisors.	

TYPES OF INSPECTIONS



Type of Inspection Conducted	Child Care Centers	Family Child Care Homes	Large/Group Family Child Care Homes
Prior to issuing a license	✓	✓	✓
• Announced	✓	✓	✓
• Unannounced			
Data notes:			
License renewal	✓	✓	✓
• Announced	✓	✓	✓
• Unannounced			
Data notes:			
Routine compliance	✓	✓	✓
• Announced			
• Unannounced	✓	✓	✓
Data notes:			

FREQUENCY OF INSPECTIONS



FREQUENCY OF REQUIRED INSPECTION VISITS	
Type of Facility	Frequency of Inspection Visits
Child care centers	Three times a year
Family child care homes	Twice a year
Large/group family child care homes	Twice a year
<i>Other frequency of inspection:</i>	
Data notes:	

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FREQUENCY OF LICENSING



LENGTH OF LICENSE	
Type of Facility	Length of License
Child care centers	One year
Family child care homes	One year
Large/group family child care homes	One year
<i>Other length of license:</i>	
Data notes: Registered family day care homes are renewed annually.	

INSPECTIONS AND MONITORING



FULL COMPLIANCE REVIEW	
Type of Facility	Frequency of Full Compliance Review
Child care centers	Three times a year
Family child care homes	Twice a year
Large/group family child care homes	Twice a year
Data notes:	

ABBREVIATED COMPLIANCE FORM	
<i>(Note: An abbreviated compliance form is a tool used during inspections that has an abbreviated list of the requirements on it, not all requirements. Sometimes called an "indicator checklist.")</i>	
Abbreviated compliance form used for inspections	
Child care centers	Yes
<i>Use of form described:</i> The form is used when the center has demonstrated substantial compliance with no Class I or II deficiencies during the previous two years. It is only used for routine inspections, not renewals.	
Family child care homes	No
<i>Use of form described:</i>	
Large/group family child care homes	No
<i>Use of form described:</i>	
Data notes:	
State has policies on when to switch from abbreviated compliance review to a full compliance review	
Child care centers	Yes
Family child care homes	No
Large/group family child care homes	No
Data notes:	

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DIFFERENTIAL MONITORING	
<i>(Note: Differential monitoring is the frequency and/or depth of monitoring inspections that is based on an assessment of the level of compliance with regulations. May also be called "risk assessment monitoring.")</i>	
System of differential monitoring based on compliance records used for inspections	
Child care centers	No
<i>System of assessing compliance and differential monitoring:</i>	
Family child care homes	No
<i>System of assessing compliance and differential monitoring:</i>	
Large/group family child care homes	No
<i>System of assessing compliance and differential monitoring:</i>	
Data notes:	

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CONSULTATION			
Technical assistance/consultation provided to help licensees achieve compliance with licensing regulations			
Child care centers	Yes		
Family child care homes	Yes		
Large/group family child care homes	Yes		
Technical assistance/consultation provided to help licensees move beyond minimum licensing regulations			
Child care centers	No		
Family child care homes	No		
Large/group family child care homes	No		
Data notes:			
Means of providing technical assistance/consultation	Child Care Centers	Family Child Care Homes	Large/Group Family Child Care Homes
During all inspection visits	✓	✓	✓
• During application visits			
• During routine inspection visits			
• During renewal inspection visits			
On the telephone			
As needed by licensee	✓		
<i>Other:</i>			
Data notes:			

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Referrals made to other agencies/organizations/individuals for technical assistance	
Child care centers	
Family child care homes	
Large/group family child care homes	
<i>Agencies, organizations, or individuals used for technical assistance referrals:</i>	

DATA AUTOMATION	
Basic licensing data is automated	Yes
Data notes:	
Portable computers and inspection software used for inspections	
Child care centers	Yes
Family child care homes	Yes
Large/group family child care homes	Yes
Data notes:	
<i>Other tools used for inspections and monitoring: Some districts currently use laser measuring devices.</i>	Yes

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS



INVESTIGATIONS	
Licensing agency conducts complaint investigations	
Child care centers	Yes
Family child care homes	Yes
Large/group family child care homes	Yes
Data notes:	
State uses same staff who conduct inspections for initial licensure and routine compliance to conduct complaint investigations	
Child care centers	Yes
Family child care homes	Yes
Large/group family child care homes	Yes
State has separate staff who only work on complaint investigations	
Child care centers	No
Family child care homes	No
Large/group family child care homes	No
State uses other complaint investigation staff	
Child care centers	No
Family child care homes	No
Large/group family child care homes	No
<i>Other complaint investigation staff described:</i>	

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Data notes:	
State investigates anonymous complaints	
Child care centers	Yes
Family child care homes	Yes
Large/group family child care homes	Yes
Data notes:	

NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS				
Number of Licensing Complaints	Child Care Centers	Family Child Care Homes	Large/Group Family Child Care Homes	Total
Number of licensing complaints filed				
Number of substantiated licensing complaints				
Data notes: Data not available				
<i>Nature of licensing complaints:</i> Child-staff ratio, licensing standards, illegal/unlicensed issues, and religious-exempt issues.				

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT				
Agencies that investigate child abuse and neglect complaints against child care centers and family child care homes				
Licensing agency				
Protective services				✓
Specialized unit for child abuse and neglect				
Other agency:				
Data notes:				
Number of child abuse and neglect complaints	Child Care Centers	Family Child Care Homes	Large/Group Family Child Care Homes	Total
Number of child abuse and neglect complaints filed	2,110	421	0	2,531
Number of substantiated child abuse and neglect complaints	0	0	0	0

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Data notes:

Verified – When a preponderance of the credible evidence results in a determination that the specific injury, harm, or threatened harm was the result of abuse or neglect (there were 245 cases in child care centers and 79 in family day care homes).

Some Indication – When there is credible evidence, which does not meet the standard of being a preponderance, to support that the specific injury, harm, or threatened harm was the result of abuse or neglect (there were 500 cases in child care centers and 106 in family day care homes).

No Indication – When there is no credible evidence to support the allegations of abuse, neglect, or threatened harm (there were 1,365 cases in child care centers and 236 in family day care homes).

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS



USE OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS						
Enforcement Actions	Child Care Centers		Family Child Care Homes		Large/Group Family Child Care Homes	
	Used	Num.	Used	Num.	Used	Num.
Revocation of license						
Denial of license						
Immediate closure of facility						
Non-renewal of license						
Probation						
Conditional license						
Consent agreement						
Civil fine						
Criminal fine						
Imprisonment						
<i>Other enforcement actions:</i> Suspension of part of a program, such as transportation.						
Data notes: Data not available. This is a manual process at the local level and is not captured in the automated system at this time.						
<i>Legal representation for licensing agency:</i> In each district and in the program office, legal counsel is available for consultation and representation.						

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ACCESS TO LICENSING INFORMATION



LICENSING INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET	
Licensing inspection reports are available on the Internet for parent and public access	Yes, the full report
Data notes:	
Complaints against facilities are included in licensing reports on the Internet	Yes, but only substantiated complaints
Data notes:	

LICENSING FEES



LICENSING FEES CHARGED			
Fees are charged for a license			
Child care centers	Yes		
Family child care homes	No		
Large/group family child care homes	No		
Data notes:			
Type of Licensing Fee	Child Care Centers	Family Child Care Homes	Large/Group Family Child Care Homes
Flat fee for all child care facilities	✓		
Fee based on maximum number of children in facility	✓		
<i>Other type of fee:</i>			
Data notes:			
Amount of Licensing Fee	Child Care Centers	Family Child Care Homes	Large/Group Family Child Care Homes
Flat fee	\$1 per child, \$25 minimum, \$100 maximum		
Fee based on maximum number of children in facility	\$1 per child, \$25 minimum, \$100 maximum		
<i>Other type of fee:</i>			
Data notes:			

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LICENSING STAFF REQUIREMENTS



LICENSING STAFF POSITION	
Name of licensing line staff position	Licensing Counselor

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS	
Minimum entry-level qualifications for child care licensing line staff	
Master's degree	
Bachelor's degree	✓
Associate's degree	
College-level certification program or credential	
Some college education	
Certification program or credential (not college-level)	
High school diploma or GED	
Experience working with children in the early care and education field	
No required educational qualifications	
<i>Other qualifications:</i>	
Data notes:	
Content and experience requirements	
Degrees and/or courses must be in early childhood education, child development, or a related field	No
Data notes:	
<i>Content areas or majors accepted:</i> The only requirement is a bachelor's degree.	
Experience working in a setting with children required prior to working as a licenser	No
Data notes:	

STAFF TRAINING	
Annual training requirements	
Additional training required each year	Yes
Data notes:	
<i>Amount of required training:</i> Regional training, statewide meeting/training, annual training, and any other conferences/training opportunities that are available.	
Topics covered in training	
Regulatory issues	✓
State's regulations	✓
Health and safety issues	
Identifying child abuse and neglect	
State's licensing policies and procedures	✓

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Fire safety	
Early childhood education/child development	
Adult development	
Business administration/management	
Supervision	
<i>Other training topics:</i> The focus is placed on areas that may require additional improvement/additional training.	✓
Data notes:	
Sources of training for child care licensing line staff	
Licensing agency	✓
Community-based organization	
Local/state conferences	✓
National conferences	✓
Outside consultants	
College/university	
No sources of training	
Do not know	
<i>Other training sources:</i>	
Data notes:	

FUNDING TO SUPPORT LICENSING STAFF	
Sources of funding to hire and support child care licensing staff	
General state funds	✓
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)	✓
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	
Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)	✓
<i>Other federal funds:</i>	
Private funds	
Licensing fees	✓
Do not know	
<i>Other funding sources:</i>	
Data notes:	

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QUALITY INITIATIVES



LICENSING AGENCY'S INVOLVEMENT IN QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES	
Tiered quality strategy	
Lead agency	
Initiative in same agency as licensing	
Licensing participates in planning	✓
Licensing not involved	
State does not have initiative	
Data notes:	
Accreditation facilitation project	
Lead agency	
Initiative in same agency as licensing	✓
Licensing participates in planning	✓
Licensing not involved	
State does not have initiative	
Data notes:	
Professional development system	
Lead agency	
Initiative in same agency as licensing	
Licensing participates in planning	✓
Licensing not involved	
State does not have initiative	
Data notes:	
Assessing quality with environment rating scale	
Lead agency	
Initiative in same agency as licensing	
Licensing participates in planning	
Licensing not involved	✓
State does not have initiative	
Data notes: The local School Readiness Coalitions use various scales as part of their quality assessment processes.	
Other quality initiative	
Lead agency	
Initiative in same agency as licensing	
Licensing participates in planning	
Licensing not involved	
State does not have initiative	
Data notes:	

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Data Profile for State Child Care Center Staff Qualifications

Click on link to go to information:

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS FOR CENTER ROLES

- [Directors](#)
- [Master Teachers](#)
- [Teachers](#)
- [Assistant Teachers](#)
- [Aides](#)

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS FOR DIRECTORS



EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR DIRECTORS

State regulates role	Yes
State requires education and/or experience for role	Yes
Number of qualification alternatives for role <i>(Note: Qualification alternatives are different ways to qualify for roles, usually by completing some type of education or training and/or having work experience.)</i>	3

Qualification alternative #1: Complete 5 clock hours or .5 continuing education units of training in early literacy and language development of children birth to 5 years of age within 12 months of employment (hired after 1/1/2005) or by 6/30/2005.

The foundational level applicants must meet the following educational and experiential requirements:

1. High school diploma or GED; and
2. The Department of Children and Family Services' 30-clock-hour Introductory Child Care Training (Part I); and
3. The Department of Children and Families' Special Needs Appropriate Practices module or a minimum of 8 hours of in-service training in serving children with disabilities; and
4. One of the following staff credentials: a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential; state-approved Florida CDA Equivalency; the Florida School-Age Certification; a formal education exemption qualification; or a documented employment history recognition exemption; and
5. One course in the curriculum content area "Overview of Child Care Center Management,"

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which must be met by one approved three-hour college level course, offered for credit or 4.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) through continuing education or one approved Post Secondary Adult Vocational course offered through a vocational-technical institution in Florida; and

6. One year experience on-site as a child care director. For those candidates who have met the educational requirements of this level but have not completed the one year experiential requirement a temporary credential will be granted.

Time frame for requirements:

Preservice	✓
Orientation to role/initial hiring period	
<i>During a certain period of time: N/A</i>	

Experience requirements:

Amount of experience required	1 year
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Qualification alternative #2: Complete 5 clock hours or .5 continuing education units of training in early literacy and language development of children birth to 5 years of age within 12 months of employment (hired after 1/1/2005) or by 6/30/2005.

The advanced level applicants must meet the following educational and experiential requirements:

1. High school diploma or GED; and
2. The Department of Children and Family Services 30-clock-hour Introductory Child Care Training (Part I); and
3. The department's Special Needs Appropriate Practices module or a minimum of 8- hours of in-service training or course in serving children with disabilities; and
4. One of the following staff credentials: a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential; a state-approved Florida CDA Equivalency; the approved Florida School-Age Certification; a formal education exemption qualification; or a documented employment history recognition exemption; and
5. Three approved courses in child care education program administration. The coursework requirement must be taken for college credit and must be from the following curriculum areas: Overview of Child Care Center Management, Child Care and Education Organizational Leadership and Management, Child Care and Education Financial and Legal Issues, Child Care and Education Programming; and
6. Two years of experience on-site as a child care director. For those candidates who have met all the educational requirements of this level but have not completed the two year experiential requirement a temporary credential will be granted.

Time frame for requirements:

Preservice	✓
Orientation to role/initial hiring period	
<i>During a certain period of time:</i>	

Experience requirements:

Amount of experience required	2 years
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Qualification alternative #3: Complete 5 clock hours or .5 continuing education units of training in early literacy and language development of children birth to 5 years of age within 12 months of employment (hired after 1/1/2005) or by 6/30/2005.

Exceptions: For the foundational level, Directors who have attained another state's approved Director Credential shall receive credit towards the, "Overview of Child Care Management", educational component of the credential. For the advanced level credential only, an educational exception will be granted to individuals who meet subparagraphs 65C-22.003(8)(c)1.-4. and 6., F.A.C., and any of the following:

1. An A.S. degree in child care center management, or
2. An A.S., B.A., B.S. or advanced degree in early childhood education/child development, family and consumer sciences (formerly home economics/child development), school-age child care or elementary education with at least three credit hours in child care management/administration, business administration or educational administration, or
3. A B.A., B.S. or advanced degree other than those degree areas in number 2. above, with three credit hours in early childhood/child development or school-age child care and three credit hours in child care management/administration, business administration or educational administration, or
4. Five or more years of experience as an administrator or director in a licensed child care facility, or a facility that is legally exempt pursuant to Sections 402.3025 and 402.316, F.S., and with three college credit hours in early childhood/child development or school-age child care and three college credit hours in child care management/administration, business administration or educational administration. All coursework for this exception must have been completed within the last ten years.

Time frame for requirements:

Preservice	✓
Orientation to role/initial hiring period	
<i>During a certain period of time:</i>	

Experience requirements:

Amount of experience required	N/A
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Types of training, credentials, and degrees included in qualification alternatives:

Clock hours		Bachelor's degree	
Credit hours		Bachelor's degree or higher	
Child Development Associate (CDA) credential		<i>Bachelor's degree in a related field:</i> N/A	
State credential		Bachelor's degree in early care and education	
• Infant and toddler credential		Bachelor's degree in early care and education or higher	
• Director credential		Master's degree	
• <i>Other state credentials:</i> N/A		<i>Master's degree in a related field:</i> N/A	
Associate's degree		Master's degree in early care and education	

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Associate's degree in a related field: N/A		PhD or advanced degree	
Associate's degree in early care and education		Teaching certificate/license	

State has additional requirements for experience to qualify for role	No
Experience must be from working with children	
Experience must be with a specific age group of children	
Experience must be in a specific setting	
Experience must be in an accredited center or family child care home	
Experience must be supervised	
Experience must be verified by employer/supervisor	
Experience must be from continuous employment	
Experience as a parent can count to qualify for role	

Qualifications are linked to the state's early care and education professional development system	No
<i>Links to system: N/A</i>	
Center staff are required to participate in the state professional development system (i.e., enroll in a practitioner registry)	No

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STAFF QUALIFICATIONS FOR MASTER TEACHERS



EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER TEACHERS	
State regulates role	Yes
State requires education and/or experience for role	Yes
Number of qualification alternatives for role <i>(Note: Qualification alternatives are different ways to qualify for roles, usually by completing some type of education or training and/or having work experience.)</i>	4

Qualification alternative #1: State approved Florida CDA equivalency training program. Complete 5 clock hours or .5 continuing education units of training in early literacy and language development of children birth to 5 years of age within 12 months of employment (hired after 1/1/2005) or by 6/30/2005.	
Time frame for requirements:	
Preservice	✓
Orientation to role/initial hiring period	✓
<i>During a certain period of time:</i>	✓
Experience requirements:	
Amount of experience required	540 hours

Qualification alternative #2: National Child Development Associate Credential. Complete 5 clock hours or .5 continuing education units of training in early literacy and language development of children birth to 5 years of age within 12 months of employment (hired after 1/1/2005) or by 6/30/2005.	
Time frame for requirements:	
Preservice	✓
Orientation to role/initial hiring period	✓
<i>During a certain period of time:</i>	✓
Experience requirements:	
Amount of experience required	540 hours

Qualification alternative #3: Associate's degree. Complete 5 clock hours or .5 continuing education units of training in early literacy and language development of children birth to 5 years of age within 12 months of employment (hired after 1/1/2005) or by 6/30/2005.	
Time frame for requirements:	
Preservice	✓
Orientation to role/initial hiring period	✓
<i>During a certain period of time:</i>	

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Experience requirements:	
Amount of experience required	540 hours

Qualification alternative #4: Higher degree. Complete 5 clock hours or .5 continuing education units of training in early literacy and language development of children birth to 5 years of age within 12 months of employment (hired after 1/1/2005) or by 6/30/2005.

Time frame for requirements:	
Preservice	✓
Orientation to role/initial hiring period	✓
<i>During a certain period of time:</i>	

Experience requirements:	
Amount of experience required	540 hours

Types of training, credentials, and degrees included in qualification alternatives:			
Clock hours		Bachelor's degree	✓
Credit hours		Bachelor's degree or higher	
Child Development Associate (CDA) credential	✓	<i>Bachelor's degree in a related field:</i> N/A	
State credential		Bachelor's degree in early care and education	
• Infant and toddler credential		Bachelor's degree in early care and education or higher	
• Director credential		Master's degree	✓
• <i>Other state credentials:</i> N/A		<i>Master's degree in a related field:</i> N/A	
Associate's degree	✓	Master's degree in early care and education	
<i>Associate's degree in a related field:</i> N/A		PhD or advanced degree	✓
Associate's degree in early care and education		Teaching certificate/license	

State has additional requirements for experience to qualify for role	Yes
Experience must be from working with children	✓
Experience must be with a specific age group of children	
Experience must be in a specific setting	✓
Experience must be in an accredited center or family child care home	
Experience must be supervised	
Experience must be verified by employer/supervisor	✓
Experience must be from continuous employment	
Experience as a parent can count to qualify for role	

<p>Key: ✓ = Yes ⬆ = Click to go back to top N/A = Not Applicable/Not Addressed</p>	<p>NARA = National Association for Regulatory Administration NCCIC = National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center NRC = National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education</p>
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Qualifications are linked to the state's early care and education professional development system	No
<i>Links to system: N/A</i>	
Center staff are required to participate in the state professional development system (i.e., enroll in a practitioner registry)	No

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STAFF QUALIFICATIONS FOR TEACHERS



EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHERS	
State regulates role	Yes
State requires education and/or experience for role	Yes
Number of qualification alternatives for role <i>(Note: Qualification alternatives are different ways to qualify for roles, usually by completing some type of education or training and/or having work experience.)</i>	4

<p>Qualification alternative #1: From regulations and statute (402.305): Within 90 days after employment, child care personnel shall begin training to complete Part I and Part II of the Department of Children and Family Services' 40 hour Introductory Child Care Training requirement. Child care personnel shall successfully complete such training within 1 year after the date on which the training began, as evidenced by passage of a competency examination with a score of seventy (70) or better. Complete 5 clock hours or .5 continuing education units of training in early literacy and language development of children birth to 5 years of age within 12 months of employment (hired after 1/1/2005) or by 6/30/2005.</p>	
Time frame for requirements:	
Preservice	✓
Orientation to role/initial hiring period	✓
<i>During a certain period of time:</i> Within 1 year	✓
Experience requirements:	
Amount of experience required	N/A

<p>Qualification alternative #2: Child Development Associate credential, state-approved Florida CDA Equivalency course. Complete 5 clock hours or .5 continuing education units of training in early literacy and language development of children birth to 5 years of age within 12 months of employment (hired after 1/1/2005) or by 6/30/2005.</p>	
Time frame for requirements:	
Preservice	✓
Orientation to role/initial hiring period	✓
<i>During a certain period of time:</i>	
Experience requirements:	
Amount of experience required	N/A

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Qualification alternative #3: Two year degree with 6 college credit hours in early childhood/child growth and development. Complete 5 clock hours or .5 continuing education units of training in early literacy and language development of children birth to 5 years of age within 12 months of employment (hired after 1/1/2005) or by 6/30/2005.	
Time frame for requirements:	
Preservice	✓
Orientation to role/initial hiring period	✓
<i>During a certain period of time:</i>	
Experience requirements:	
Amount of experience required	N/A

Qualification alternative #4: Higher degree with 6 college credit hours in early childhood/child growth and development. Complete 5 clock hours or .5 continuing education units of training in early literacy and language development of children birth to 5 years of age within 12 months of employment (hired after 1/1/2005) or by 6/30/2005.	
Time frame for requirements:	
Preservice	✓
Orientation to role/initial hiring period	
<i>During a certain period of time:</i>	
Experience requirements:	
Amount of experience required	N/A

Types of training, credentials, and degrees included in qualification alternatives:			
Clock hours	✓	Bachelor's degree	✓
Credit hours		Bachelor's degree or higher	
Child Development Associate (CDA) credential	✓	<i>Bachelor's degree in a related field:</i> N/A	
State credential		Bachelor's degree in early care and education	
• Infant and toddler credential		Bachelor's degree in early care and education or higher	
• Director credential		Master's degree	✓
• <i>Other state credentials:</i> N/A		<i>Master's degree in a related field:</i> N/A	
Associate's degree	✓	Master's degree in early care and education	
<i>Associate's degree in a related field:</i> N/A		PhD or advanced degree	✓
Associate's degree in early care and education		Teaching certificate/license	

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State has additional requirements for experience to qualify for role	No
Experience must be from working with children	
Experience must be with a specific age group of children	
Experience must be in a specific setting	
Experience must be in an accredited center or family child care home	
Experience must be supervised	
Experience must be verified by employer/supervisor	
Experience must be from continuous employment	
Experience as a parent can count to qualify for role	

Qualifications are linked to the state's early care and education professional development system	No
<i>Links to system: N/A</i>	
Center staff are required to participate in the state professional development system (i.e., enroll in a practitioner registry)	No

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STAFF QUALIFICATIONS FOR ASSISTANT TEACHERS



EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE QUALIFICATIONS FOR ASSISTANT TEACHERS			
State regulates role		No	
State requires education and/or experience for role		No	
Number of qualification alternatives for role <i>(Note: Qualification alternatives are different ways to qualify for roles, usually by completing some type of education or training and/or having work experience.)</i>		0	
Types of training, credentials, and degrees included in qualification alternatives:			
Clock hours		Bachelor's degree	
Credit hours		Bachelor's degree or higher	
Child Development Associate (CDA) credential		<i>Bachelor's degree in a related field:</i> N/A	
State credential		Bachelor's degree in early care and education	
• Infant and toddler credential		Bachelor's degree in early care and education or higher	
• Director credential		Master's degree	
• <i>Other state credentials:</i> N/A		<i>Master's degree in a related field:</i> N/A	
Associate's degree		Master's degree in early care and education	
<i>Associate's degree in a related field:</i> N/A		PhD or advanced degree	
Associate's degree in early care and education		Teaching certificate/license	

State has additional requirements for experience to qualify for role	No
Experience must be from working with children	
Experience must be with a specific age group of children	
Experience must be in a specific setting	
Experience must be in an accredited center or family child care home	
Experience must be supervised	
Experience must be verified by employer/supervisor	
Experience must be from continuous employment	
Experience as a parent can count to qualify for role	

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Qualifications are linked to the state's early care and education professional development system	No
<i>Links to system: N/A</i>	
Center staff are required to participate in the state professional development system (i.e., enroll in a practitioner registry)	No

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STAFF QUALIFICATIONS FOR AIDES



EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE QUALIFICATIONS FOR AIDES			
State regulates role		No	
State requires education and/or experience for role		No	
Number of qualification alternatives for role <i>(Note: Qualification alternatives are different ways to qualify for roles, usually by completing some type of education or training and/or having work experience.)</i>		0	
Types of training, credentials, and degrees included in qualification alternatives:			
Clock hours		Bachelor's degree	
Credit hours		Bachelor's degree or higher	
Child Development Associate (CDA) credential		<i>Bachelor's degree in a related field:</i> N/A	
State credential		Bachelor's degree in early care and education	
• Infant and toddler credential		Bachelor's degree in early care and education or higher	
• Director credential		Master's degree	
• <i>Other state credentials:</i> N/A		<i>Master's degree in a related field:</i> N/A	
Associate's degree		Master's degree in early care and education	
<i>Associate's degree in a related field:</i> N/A		PhD or advanced degree	
Associate's degree in early care and education		Teaching certificate/license	

State has additional requirements for experience to qualify for role	No
Experience must be from working with children	
Experience must be with a specific age group of children	
Experience must be in a specific setting	
Experience must be in an accredited center or family child care home	
Experience must be supervised	
Experience must be verified by employer/supervisor	
Experience must be from continuous employment	
Experience as a parent can count to qualify for role	

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Qualifications are linked to the state's early care and education professional development system	No
<i>Links to system: N/A</i>	
Center staff are required to participate in the state professional development system (i.e., enroll in a practitioner registry)	No

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Data Profile for State Child Care Center Regulations

Click on link to go to information:

LICENSING REGULATIONS

- [Child Care Center Regulations Summary](#)

DEFINITION OF LICENSED CHILD CARE/DAY CARE CENTERS

- [Definition of Licensed Centers](#)
- [Exemptions from Licensing](#)

CENTER STAFF REQUIREMENTS

- [Staff Roles](#)
- [Age and High School Diploma Requirements](#)
- [Other Roles in Regulations](#)
- [Hiring Policies](#)
- [Staff Health Requirements](#)
- [Background Checks](#)
- [Orientation Training](#)
- [Health and Safety Training](#)
- [Ongoing Training](#)

CHILD-STAFF RATIOS AND GROUP SIZE

- [Child-Staff Ratios and Group Size By Age of Children](#)
- [Mixed-Age Groups](#)
- [Additional Requirements](#)

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SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN

- [General Supervision Requirements](#)
- [Supervision of Children During Naptime](#)
- [Supervision During Evening/Overnight Care](#)
- [Supervision of Children During Outdoor Play](#)
- [Supervision of Children During Large Group Activities](#)
- [Supervision of Children Swimming/Participating in Water Activities](#)
- [Supervision of Children Transported in Vehicles](#)
- [Supervision of Children During Field Trips](#)

CARE OF CHILDREN

- [Age Definitions](#)
- [Children's Health Requirements](#)
- [Nutrition](#)
- [Behavior Guidance and Discipline](#)
- [Program and Activities](#)
- [Parent Involvement](#)
- [Specialized Care – Infant and Toddler](#)
- [Specialized Care – School-Age](#)
- [Specialized Care – Mildly III Children](#)
- [Specialized Care – Evening/Overnight Care](#)
- [Specialized Care – Drop-In Care](#)

FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

- [Environment](#)
- [Square Footage](#)
- [Condition of Facility and Equipment](#)
- [Safety of Facility And Equipment](#)
- [Outdoor Space](#)
- [Fire Safety](#)
- [General Emergency Plans](#)
- [Emergency Preparedness](#)
- [Security](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Liability Insurance](#)
- [Administration of Medication](#)
- [Medical Procedures](#)
- [Care of Mildly III Children](#)
- [Incident Reporting](#)
- [Additional Health Requirements](#)
- [Hand Washing](#)
- [Diapering](#)
- [Smoking Policies](#)
- [Hazardous Materials](#)
- [Firearms](#)
- [Animals in Facility](#)

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LICENSING REGULATIONS



CHILD CARE CENTER REGULATIONS SUMMARY	
Name of regulations: Chapter 65C-22 Child Care Standards	
Date of regulations: 06/30/2005	
State has separate regulations for the following types of care:	
School-age care programs	
Infant and toddler care programs	
Programs for mildly ill children	✓
Evening/overnight care programs	
Drop-in child care programs	
<i>Other programs:</i> N/A	



DEFINITION OF LICENSED CHILD CARE/DAY CARE CENTERS



DEFINITION OF LICENSED CENTERS	
State has definition of "child care center" or "day care center"	Yes
<i>Text of definition:</i> "Child care" means the care, protection, and supervision of a child, for a period of less than 24 hours a day on a regular basis, which supplements parental care, enrichment, and health supervision for the child, in accordance with his or her individual needs, and for which a payment, fee, or grant is made for care.	
State has definition of "child care facility" or "day care facility"	Yes
<i>Text of definition:</i> "Child care facility" includes any child care center or child care arrangement which provides child care for more than five children unrelated to the operator and which receives a payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, wherever operated, and whether or not operated for profit.	
Elements included in state's definition of a licensed child care center:	
Minimum number of children	✓
Minimum age of children	
Maximum age of children	
Services are provided for less than 24 hours or any part of a 24-hour day	✓
Minimum number of hours services are provided	



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Maximum number of hours services are provided	
Services are provided on an ongoing/regular basis	✓
Services are provided on a scheduled basis	
Services are provided before or after school hours	
Services are provided at the parent's work site	
Parent is not present at work site	
Provider and children are not related by blood, marriage, and/or adoption	✓
Children are not from provider's immediate family; provider is not parent/guardian or custodian of children	
Children are not from one family (siblings)	
Services are provided in a non-residential setting	
Services are not provided in provider's/licensee's home	
Services are not provided in child's home	
Services can be provided in a private facility	
Services can be provided in a public facility	
Services can be provided for profit	✓
Services can be provided not for profit	✓
Services can be provided for payment or compensation	✓
Data notes: N/A	

EXEMPTIONS FROM LICENSING	
State has defined types of programs that are exempt from licensing	Yes
Characteristics of programs that are exempt from licensing:	
Maximum number of children in care to be exempt	N/A
Number of hours child care services are provided to be exempt	N/A
Services are part-day	
Services are provided irregularly/occasionally	
Program is a nursery school or preschool program	
Program is a kindergarten program	✓
Program is a Head Start program	
Services are provided by a relative of the children in care	
<i>State definition of "relative":</i> N/A	
Services are provided by parent, guardian, or custodian of the children in care	
Services are provided at no cost to the parents	
Services are provided with no compensation to the provider	
Program is a club (Boys and Girls Club, etc.)	
Program is a day camp (summer, seasonal, etc.)	✓

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Services are for school-age children	
Program is a recreation program	
Program is instructional classes for children	
Services are provided by a religious organization	✓
Services are provided during religious services	
Program offers religious instruction	
Services are provided in a facility where the parent is on the premises and accessible (not for employment)	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casino 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resort 	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference Center 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shopping mall 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowling alley 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health club 	
<i>Other programs where parents are on the premises: Transient establishments which provide child care services solely for the guests of their establishment or resort.</i>	
Services are "drop-in" care	
Services are provided by a preschool program approved by the state department of education	✓
Program is a preschool program operated by a public school or system	✓
Program is a preschool program operated by a private school or system	✓
Services provided by a public prekindergarten program	
Services provided on a military installation/base	
Facility is operated by a unit of local, state, or federal government	
Facility is operated by a college/university	
<i>Other exemptions:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Except for the requirements regarding screening of child care personnel, licensing requirements shall not apply to a child care facility which is an integral part of church or parochial schools conducting regularly scheduled classes, courses of study, or educational programs accredited by, or by a member of, an organization which publishes and requires compliance with its standards for health, safety, and sanitation. However, such facilities shall meet minimum requirements of the applicable local governing body as to health, sanitation, and safety and shall meet the screening requirements. Failure by a facility to comply with such screening requirements shall result in the loss of the facility's exemption from licensure. • Bible schools normally conducted during vacation periods. • Programs in public and private schools for children in 5-year-old kindergarten and grades one or above. • Programs in public schools that are operated and staffed directly by the schools and meet standards adopted by the State Board of Education. • Programs in private schools for children who are at least 3 years of age, but under 5 years of age, shall not be deemed to be child care and shall not be subject to 	

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requirements relating to child care facilities, provided that the programs in the schools are operated and staffed directly by the schools, a majority of the children enrolled in the schools are 5 years of age or older, and there is compliance with the screening requirements for personnel.

Data notes: N/A

CENTER STAFF REQUIREMENTS

[↑](#)

STAFF ROLES ↑		
Role	Role Included in Regulations	State's Role Name
Director	Yes	Director
Master teacher	Yes	One staff member with higher qualifications is needed for every 20 children
Teacher	Yes	Child care personnel
Assistant teacher	No	N/A
Aide	No	N/A

[↑](#)

AGE AND HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS ↑			
Role	Minimum Age Requirement	Other Age Requirements	High School Diploma or GED Required
Director	N/A	See notes	HS diploma or GED required
Master teacher	N/A	See notes	Not required
Teacher	N/A	See notes	Not required
Assistant teacher	N/A	N/A	N/A
Aide	N/A	N/A	N/A

Additional requirements: In the absence of the operator, there must be a staff person at least 21 years of age in charge of the child care facility and on the premises at all times.

[↑](#)

OTHER ROLES IN REGULATIONS ↑			
Role	Included in Regulations	Minimum Age Requirement	Other Requirements
Substitute		N/A	N/A
Volunteer		N/A	N/A
<i>Other roles:</i> Driver	✓	N/A	Not specified

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HIRING POLICIES ↑		
State requirements on reference checks	Staff	Director
References are required when hiring center staff		
References must be from certain people		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-relative • Professional acquaintance • Previous employer 		
Type of references required (written, verbal, or both)	N/A	N/A
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>		

STAFF HEALTH REQUIREMENTS ↑	
Center facility records must include health reports on staff	
Center staff required to have a physical exam or to provide health statement from a physician	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required at hiring • Required annually or at another time interval • Required for staff having contact with children • Required for staff having contact with food 	
Center staff required to have tuberculosis screening	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required at hiring • Required annually or at another time interval • Required for staff having contact with children • Required for staff having contact with food 	
Center staff required to provide proof of immunizations	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required at hiring • Required annually or at another time interval • Required for staff having contact with children • Required for staff having contact with food 	
Center staff must meet additional requirements regarding their health	No
Center staff required to provide proof of suitability to provide care to children	
Center staff required to have a drug, alcohol, and/or substance screening	
<i>Additional requirements: Required for drivers: Driver's license and driver physical examination documentation. The physician certification, or another form containing the same elements of the physician certification, granting medical approval to operate the vehicle must also be maintained in the driver's personnel file.</i>	

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BACKGROUND CHECKS ↑	
State requires check of criminal history records for center staff	Yes
• State criminal history record check required	✓
• Federal criminal history record check required	
• Required for all center staff	✓
• Required for center staff having contact with children	
• Required for center staff under certain conditions (i.e., lived in state a certain amount of time)	
• Required for volunteers	
• Required for staff not working with children (i.e., cook, janitor, bus driver, etc.)	
State requires check of child abuse and neglect registry for center staff	No
• Required for all center staff	
• Required for center staff having contact with children	
• Required for center staff under certain conditions (i.e., lived in state a certain amount of time)	
• Required for volunteers	
• Required for staff not working with children (i.e., cook, janitor, bus driver, etc.)	
State requires checks of fingerprint records for center staff	No
• State fingerprint record check required	
• Federal fingerprint record check required	
• Required for all center staff	
• Required for center staff having contact with children	
• Required for center staff under certain conditions (i.e., lived in state a certain amount of time)	
• Required for volunteers	
• Required for staff not working with children (i.e., cook, janitor, bus driver, etc.)	
State requires checks of the sex offender registry	No
State requires center staff to sign a statement about criminal status	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

ORIENTATION TRAINING ↑	
Center staff required to complete orientation training	No
Required orientation training is about the facility's policies and procedures	
Required orientation training is about state's licensing regulations	
License applicant required to complete orientation training during the application process	

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Licensee required to complete orientation training	
Only center director required to complete orientation training	
Center staff working directly with children required to complete orientation training	
Orientation training can count toward ongoing hour requirements for the first year of employment	
Center must develop and/or provide orientation training to new employees and volunteers	
Orientation training is developed and delivered by the licensing agency	
<i>Required content for orientation training: N/A</i>	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING ↑	
Center staff required to complete first aid training	Yes
Current certification in first aid training required	✓
First aid training must be for the care of infants and/or children	
Center staff working directly with children required to complete first aid training	
At least one person on duty required to complete first aid training	✓
At least one person for each group of children required to complete first aid training	
Center staff required to complete CPR training	Yes
Current certification in CPR training required	✓
CPR training must be for the care of infants and/or children	✓
Center staff working directly with children required to complete CPR training	
At least one person on duty required to complete CPR training	✓
At least one person for each group of children required to complete CPR training	
Center staff required to complete fire safety training	No
Fire safety training must be taught by a fire prevention professional	
Current certification in fire safety training required	
All center staff required to complete fire safety training	
Other types of health and safety training required	
Hand washing techniques and indications for hand washing	
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome prevention	
Lifeguard training	✓
Water safety	
Prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS and blood borne pathogens	
Care of sick children	
Prevention of spread of communicable disease/universal precautions	✓

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Administration of medication	
<i>Additional health and safety training:</i> Required for Part I training module of 40 hour Introductory Child Care Training requirement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, Safety, and Nutrition • Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect 	
Ongoing training topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety; including universal precautions; • Child abuse • Playground safety 	

ONGOING TRAINING	
Ongoing training required for directors	Yes
Number of hours required annually	10
Number of hours required bi-annually	
Number of hours averaged over two years	
Number of credit hours	
<i>Other: N/A</i>	
Ongoing training required for master teachers	Yes
Number of hours required annually	10
Number of hours required bi-annually	
Number of hours averaged over two years	
Number of credit hours	
<i>Other: N/A</i>	
Ongoing training required for teachers	Yes
Number of hours required annually	10
Number of hours required bi-annually	
Number of hours averaged over two years	
Number of credit hours	
<i>Other: N/A</i>	
Ongoing training required for assistant teachers	No
Number of hours required annually	
Number of hours required bi-annually	
Number of hours averaged over two years	
Number of credit hours	
<i>Other: N/A</i>	
Ongoing training required for aides	No
Number of hours required annually	
Number of hours required bi-annually	
Number of hours averaged over two years	
Number of credit hours	

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<i>Other: N/A</i>	
Ongoing training hours required in specific content areas for center directors	Yes
<p><i>Content of ongoing training hours:</i> The annual 10-clock-hours in-service training or 1 CEU, must be completed in one or more of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health and safety; including universal precautions; 2. CPR; 3. First Aid (this training may only be taken to meet the in-service requirement once every three years); 4. Nutrition; 5. Child development - typical and atypical; 6. Child transportation and safety; 7. Behavior management; 8. Working with families; 9. Design and use of child oriented space; 10. Community, health and social service resources; 11. Child abuse; 12. Child care for multilingual children; 13. Working with children with disabilities in child care; 14. Playground safety; 15. Literacy; 16. Guidance and Discipline; 17. Computer Technology; 18. Leadership development/program management and staff supervision; 19. Age appropriate lesson planning; 20. Homework Assistance for school age care; 21. Developing special interest centers/ spaces and environments; or 22. Other course areas relating to child care or child care management. 	

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Ongoing training hours required in specific content areas for teaching staff	No
<p><i>Content of ongoing training hours:</i> The annual 10-clock-hours in-service training or 1 CEU, must be completed in one or more of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health and safety; including universal precautions; 2. CPR; 3. First Aid (this training may only be taken to meet the in-service requirement once every three years); 4. Nutrition; 5. Child development - typical and atypical; 6. Child transportation and safety; 7. Behavior management; 8. Working with families; 9. Design and use of child oriented space; 10. Community, health and social service resources; 11. Child abuse; 12. Child care for multilingual children; 13. Working with children with disabilities in child care; 14. Playground safety; 15. Literacy; 16. Guidance and Discipline; 17. Computer Technology; 18. Leadership development/program management and staff supervision; 19. Age appropriate lesson planning; 20. Homework Assistance for school age care; 21. Developing special interest centers/ spaces and environments; or 22. Other course areas relating to child care or child care management. 	
Types of training accepted/approved for ongoing training hours are specified	Yes
Job orientation	
College credit hours	✓
Non-credit coursework	✓
Training provided by organizations approved by state training approval system	
Training provided by organizations licensed or certified professionally competent in the training topic	
<i>Other: N/A</i>	
Delivery methods accepted/approved for ongoing training hours are specified	No
Adult education courses	
Training provided by an approved or accredited secondary institution/vocational school	
Training provided by an approved or accredited institution of higher education	
Audio-visual materials/videos/reading materials	
Conference workshops	

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Community-based workshops	
Distance learning methods (Internet, video conferences, etc.)	
In-service training delivered by center director	
<i>Other: N/A</i>	

CHILD-STAFF RATIOS AND GROUP SIZE



CHILD-STAFF RATIOS AND GROUP SIZE BY AGE OF CHILDREN		
Age of Children	Child-Staff Ratio	Group Size
6 weeks	4:1	Not regulated
9 months	4:1	Not regulated
18 months	6:1	Not regulated
27 months	11:1	Not regulated
3 years	15:1	Not regulated
4 years	20:1	Not regulated
5 years	25:1	Not regulated
6 years	25:1	Not regulated
7 years	25:1	Not regulated
8–9 years	25:1	Not regulated
10 years and older	25:1	Not regulated
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>		

MIXED-AGE GROUPS	
State permits mixed-age groupings of children	Yes
<i>Child-staff ratio requirements for mixed-age groups:</i> In groups of mixed age ranges, where children under 1 year of age are included, one staff member shall be responsible for no more than 4 children of any age group. In groups of mixed age ranges, where children 1 year of age but under 2 years of age are included, one staff member shall be responsible for no more than 6 children of any age group.	
<i>Group size requirements for mixed-age groups:</i> N/A	
<i>Additional requirements:</i> N/A	

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ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS ↑	
State has a definition for "group"	No
<i>Text of definition: N/A</i>	
State requires that each group of children has a designated space—either a separate room or delineated space in a large room	
State requirements on legally exceeding limits	
Centers allowed legally to exceed licensed capacity	
<i>Conditions: N/A</i>	
Centers allowed legally to exceed required child-staff ratios	
<i>Conditions: N/A</i>	
Centers allowed legally to exceed required group size	
<i>Conditions: N/A</i>	
State has requirements for the supervision of children based on the size of the center	No
State has requirements for child-staff ratios based on the size of the center	
State has requirements for group size based on the size of the center	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN [↑](#)

GENERAL SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS ↑	
State has requirements for staff supervising children	Yes
Staff must be free of other duties	
Staff must be alert/awake	
Staff must be able to see children at all times	
Staff must be able to hear children at all times	
State has requirements related to supervision of children during emergencies	
State has requirements related to supervision and the use of substitutes for staff	
Centers are allowed to use video surveillance cameras or electronic monitors in lieu of direct supervision	
State has requirements related to the use of video surveillance cameras for parents to view their children while at the center	

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Additional requirements: Direct supervision means watching and directing children's activities within the same room or designated outdoor play area and responding to each child's need. Child care personnel at a facility must be assigned to provide direct supervision to a specific group of children and be present with that group of children at all times. When caring for school age children, child care personnel shall remain responsible for the supervision of the children in care and capable of responding to emergencies, and are accountable for children at all times, which includes when children are separated from their groups.

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN DURING NAPTIME ↑	
State has requirements for the supervision of children during naptime	Yes
Staff person must be present in room where children are napping	
Staff must be able to see children	✓
Staff must be able to hear children	✓
State has requirements for the supervision of children during naptime that are delineated by the age of the child	✓
• Infant and toddler	✓
• Preschool	
• School-age	
Staff person supervising during naptime must be free of other duties	
Center must have written supervision plan for naptime	
State has specific child-staff ratio requirements for naptime	No
<i>Requirements:</i> N/A	
State has specific group size requirements for naptime	No
<i>Requirements:</i> N/A	
<i>Additional requirements:</i> During nap time, supervision means sufficient staff in close proximity, within sight and hearing of all the children. All other staff to meet the required staff-to-children ratio shall be within the same building on the same floor and be readily accessible and available to be summoned to ensure the safety of the children. Nap time supervision as described in this section, does not include supervision of children up to 24 months of age, who must be directly supervised at all times.	

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN DURING EVENING/OVERNIGHT CARE ↑	
(see also Specialized Care – Evening/Overnight Care)	
State has requirements for the supervision of children during evening/overnight care	Yes
Staff person must be present in room where children are sleeping	
Staff must be able to see sleeping children	✓
Staff must be able to hear sleeping children	✓
Staff person supervising sleeping children must be free of other duties	
Staff must be awake	Awake at all times

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Center must have written supervision plan for evening/overnight care	
State has specific child-staff ratio requirements for evening/overnight care	No
<i>Requirements: N/A</i>	
State has specific group size requirements for evening/overnight care	No
<i>Requirements: N/A</i>	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN DURING OUTDOOR PLAY ↑	
State has requirements for the supervision of children during outdoor play	Yes
Staff person must be present outdoors with children	
Staff must be able to see children playing outdoors	
Staff must be able to hear children playing outdoors	
Center must have written supervision plan for outdoor play	
State has specific child-staff ratio requirements for outdoor play	No
<i>Requirements: N/A</i>	
State has specific group size requirements for outdoor play	No
<i>Requirements: N/A</i>	
<i>Additional requirements: During outdoor play, personnel must situate themselves in the outdoor play area so that all children can be observed and direct supervision provided.</i>	

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN DURING LARGE GROUP ACTIVITIES ↑	
State has requirements for the supervision of children during large group activities	No
Staff person must be present with children during large group activities	
Staff must be able to see children during large group activities	
Staff must be able to hear children during large group activities	
Center must have written supervision plan for large group activities	
State has specific child-staff ratio requirements for large group activities	No
<i>Requirements: N/A</i>	
State has specific group size requirements for large group activities	No
<i>Requirements: N/A</i>	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

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SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN SWIMMING/PARTICIPATING IN WATER ACTIVITIES ↑	
State has requirements for the supervision of children when swimming or participating in water activities	Yes
Staff person must be present with children when swimming or participating in water activities	
Staff must be able to see children	
Staff must be able to hear children	
Written permission from parents required for swimming and water activities	
Center must have written supervision plan for swimming and water activities	
State has specific child-staff ratio requirements for swimming and water activities	Yes
<i>Requirements: If a child care facility uses a swimming pool which exceeds 3 feet in depth or uses each or lake areas for water activities, the child care facility must provide one person with a certified lifeguard certificate or equivalent, unless a certified lifeguard is on duty and present when any children are in the swimming area. In situations where the child care facility provides a person with a certified lifeguard certificate or equivalent, that person can also serve as the additional adult needed.</i>	
State has specific group size requirements for swimming and water activities	No
<i>Requirements: N/A</i>	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN TRANSPORTED IN VEHICLES ↑ (see also Facility Requirements – Transportation)	
State has requirements for the supervision of children when transported in a vehicle	Yes
Children must not be left unattended in a vehicle	
Staff must supervise children when they board and exit a vehicle	✓
Attendance record of children must be kept	✓
Once vehicle is unloaded, additional checks for children remaining on board are conducted	✓
Staff or driver must ensure that children are received by a parent or other designated person	
Driver is counted in child-staff ratio	✓
Written permission from parents required for transporting children	
Emergency contact information for children taken on vehicle	
Center must have written supervision plan for transporting children in a vehicle	

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State has specific child-staff ratio requirements for transporting children in a vehicle	No
<i>Requirements: N/A</i>	
State has specific group size requirements for transporting children in a vehicle	No
<i>Requirements: N/A</i>	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN DURING FIELD TRIPS ↑	
State has requirements for the supervision of children during field trips	Yes
<i>Attendance record kept of children on field trip</i>	
<i>Additional staff/adults (volunteers, parents, driver) needed for field trips under certain conditions</i>	✓
<i>Written permission from parents required for field trips</i>	✓
<i>Emergency contact information for children taken on field trip</i>	
<i>Children are required to wear name tags or other identification</i>	
<i>Center must have written supervision plan for field trips</i>	
State has specific child-staff ratio requirements for field trips	Yes
<i>Requirements: In addition to the number of staff required to meet the staff to child ratio, one additional adult must be present on all field trips away from the child care facility, for the purpose of safety, to assist in providing direct supervision.</i>	
State has specific group size requirements for field trips	No
<i>Requirements: N/A</i>	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

CARE OF CHILDREN

AGE DEFINITIONS ↑	
Definition of "infant"	↑
<i>Text of definition: N/A</i>	
Definition of "toddler"	
<i>Text of definition: N/A</i>	
Definition of "preschool-age"	
<i>Text of definition: N/A</i>	
Definition of "school-age"	
<i>Text of definition: "School-age child" is defined as a child who is at least 5 years of age by September 1st of the beginning of the school year and who is attending kindergarten through grade 5.</i>	

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CHILDREN'S HEALTH REQUIREMENTS	
State requires children to have a physical exam to enroll in a center	Yes
Center must keep records of children's physical exams	✓
Health records must be provided to the center within a specific time frame after a child's enrollment	✓
State requires children to have immunizations to enroll in a center	Yes
Immunization records must be provided to the center within a specific time frame after a child's enrollment	✓
Parents/guardians can provide a written statement that they do not wish to have children immunized	✓
Health care professional can provide a written statement that children are exempt from immunization requirements for medical reasons	✓
Center can exclude children from attendance until immunization records or exemption statements are provided	
Center can accept children on a conditional basis if not all immunizations are complete	
Center can refuse to enroll children of parents who do not wish to have their children immunized	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	
Children are required to have a blood lead level screening to enroll in a center	
Center must keep emergency contact information in children's records	✓
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

NUTRITION	
State has requirements about nutrition and meals/snacks for children	Yes
State has requirements about the nutritional content of meals/snacks served to children	✓
State has requirements about the number or time interval between the delivery of meals/snacks served to children	
Center must post a menu of meals/snacks served to children	✓
Center must provide all meals/snacks for children	
Parents/guardians can provide food for their own children on a regular basis	
Parents/guardians can bring food for all children for special occasions	
Center must provide supplemental food (to what parents provide) to meet nutritional content requirements	
State has requirements about feeding infants	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

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BEHAVIOR GUIDANCE AND DISCIPLINE ↑	
State has requirements regarding behavior guidance and/or disciplining children	Yes
Specific forms of discipline/behavior guidance that centers ARE ALLOWED to use are in regulations	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervised separation from the group • Physical/corporal punishment <p><i>(Note: ✓ = state allows or it is not prohibited/addressed in regulations)</i></p> <p><i>Other forms of discipline allowed: N/A</i></p>	
Specific forms of discipline/behavior guidance that centers ARE NOT ALLOWED to use are in regulations	Yes
• Denial of food/food-related punishment	✓
• Derogatory remarks	
• Abusive language	
• Yelling or shouting/screaming	
• Physical punishment	✓
• Forced napping/no nap/rest-related	✓
• Physical/mechanical restraint	
• Locked time-out room, closet, or dark room	
• Punishment for toileting accident/toileting-related punishment	✓
• Putting something in child's mouth	
• Discipline/punishment by another child	
<i>Other forms of discipline not allowed: Prohibit children from being subjected to discipline which is severe, humiliating, frightening, or associated with food, rest, or toileting. Spanking or any other form of physical punishment is prohibited by all child care personnel.</i>	
Center must have written policies on discipline and behavior guidance practices	✓

PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES ↑	
Center must have a written daily schedule of activities	Yes
Center must post daily schedule	✓
Center must provide specific activities for children	Yes
Regular meal/snack times	✓
Nap or rest period	✓
Toileting and washing/hand washing	
Outdoor play	✓
Indoor play	✓
Child-initiated activities	
Staff-initiated activities	
Individual activities	

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Group activities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large group activities Small group activities 		
Active play		✓
Quiet play		✓
Free play		
Creative expression		
Gross motor activities		
Fine motor activities		
<i>Other activities: N/A</i>		
Developmental needs of children must be addressed in activities		Yes
Area of Children's Development	Must Be Addressed in Activities	Regulations List Specific Activities
Social development	✓	
Emotional development	✓	
Cognitive/intellectual development	✓	
Physical development		
Language/literacy development		
Cultural development		
<i>Other areas of development: N/A</i>		
State has requirements for the specific types of equipment/materials a center must have for children		No
Books and other literacy materials		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of books required 		
<i>Additional requirements about books: N/A</i>		
Art supplies/creative activities		
Blocks/construction materials		
Sensory materials		
Fine motor manipulatives		
Gross motor equipment (indoor and/or outdoor)		
Dramatic play/pretend		
Science/experimental/math (counting/sorting)		
Technology/computers		
Music		
<i>Other types of equipment required: N/A</i>		
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>		

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PARENT INVOLVEMENT ↑	
State has requirements regarding parent involvement	No
Center must encourage parent involvement	
Center must provide opportunities for parent involvement	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	
State has requirements about parents' access to the center	Yes
Center must provide access to parents at all times; no prior notice needed	✓
Parents can have unsupervised access to all children or the whole facility	
Parents can have unsupervised access only to their own children	
Parents can have supervised access to all children	
State has requirements about the center's communication with parents	No
Center must provide written copies of policies and procedures to parents	
Center must keep logs of children's care and communicate with parents	
Center must hold regularly scheduled meetings with parents	
Center must have a resource area for parents	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

SPECIALIZED CARE – INFANT AND TODDLER ↑	
State has requirements that specifically address the care of infants and/or toddlers	Yes
State has requirements on the supervision of infants and/or toddlers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each infant must have a primary caregiver 	
State has requirements for staff working with infants and/or toddlers	
<i>Staff requirements: N/A</i>	
State has requirements on program/activities specifically for infants and/or toddlers	
State has requirements on equipment/materials specifically for infants and/or toddlers	✓
State has requirements for the facility related to the care of infants and/or toddlers	✓
State has requirements on reducing the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)	
Infants must be placed on their backs to sleep	✓
Physicians can authorize a different sleep position for infants	✓
Parents can authorize a different sleep position for infants	
Soft bedding/materials must not be used in cribs	

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Additional requirements on SIDS prevention: N/A

SPECIALIZED CARE – SCHOOL-AGE ↑	
State has requirements that specifically address the care of school-age children	Yes
State has requirements on the supervision of school-age children	✓
State has requirements for staff working with school-age children	✓
<p><i>Staff requirements:</i></p> <p>School Age Child Care Personnel Training Requirements</p> <p>(a) Child care personnel must complete 40 hours of child care training by completing the following 20 hours of the Department of Children and Family Services' training as evidenced by passage of a competency examination with a score of seventy (70) or better:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State and Local Rules and Regulation; 2. Health, Safety, and Nutrition; 3. Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect; and 4. School Age Appropriate Practices. <p>(b) The remaining 20 hours must be met by successfully completing other Department of Children and Family Services' training identified in paragraphs 65C-22.003(2)(a) and (b), F.A.C., or by completing 20 hours of specialized school-age training, provided by a national organization or its affiliates that requires demonstration of competencies through passage of examination(s) or completion and assessment of a Professional Resource File (portfolio of materials that demonstrate competency).</p> <p>(c) Child care personnel are exempt from the training requirement of 5-clock-hour early literacy and language development of children from birth to 5 years of age, under paragraph 65C-22.003(2)(d), F.A.C.</p> <p>(d) Child care personnel may choose to meet the training exemptions under subsection 65C-22.003(3), F.A.C.</p> <p>(e) All provisions under subsection 65C-22.003(6), F.A.C., must be met.</p> <p>(f) School age child care programs are exempt from the staff credentialing requirement in subsection 65C-22.003(7), F.A.C.</p> <p>(g) All provisions as applicable under subsection 65C-22.003(8), F.A.C., must be met.</p> <p>A director holding a foundational or advanced Director Credential may supervise multiple sites as specified in paragraph 65C-22.003 (8)(j), F.A.C.</p>	
State has requirements on program/activities specifically for school-age children	
State has requirements on equipment/materials specifically for school-age children	
State has requirements for the facility related to the care of school-age children	✓

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SPECIALIZED CARE – MILDLY ILL CHILDREN (see also Care of Mildly Ill Children) ↑	
State has requirements that specifically address the care of children who are mildly ill	Yes
State has requirements on the supervision of mildly ill children	✓
State has requirements on program/activities specifically for mildly ill children	✓
State has requirements on equipment/materials specifically for mildly ill children	✓
State has requirements for the facility related to the care of mildly ill children	✓

SPECIALIZED CARE – EVENING/OVERNIGHT CARE (see also Supervision of Children During Evening/Overnight Care) ↑	
State has requirements that specifically address the care of children during evening/overnight hours	Yes
State has requirements on program/activities specifically for the care of children during evening/overnight hours	
State has requirements on equipment/materials specifically for the care of children during evening/overnight hours	
State has requirements for the facility related to the care of children during evening/overnight hours	✓

SPECIALIZED CARE – DROP-IN CARE ↑	
State has requirements that specifically address the care of children in drop-in programs	No
State has requirements on the supervision of children in drop-in programs	
State has requirements on program/activities specifically for children in drop-in programs	
State has requirements for the facility related to the care of children in drop-in programs	
<i>Additional requirements on drop-in care: Operators of transient establishments, which provide child care services solely for the guests of their establishment or resort, are exempt provided that all child care personnel of the establishment are screened.</i>	

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FACILITY REQUIRMENTS



ENVIRONMENT ↑	
State has requirements about environmental tests of the facility	No
Requires lead tests	
Requires asbestos tests	
Requires radon tests	
State has requirements about environmental inspections	Yes
Requires fire inspections	Required annually
Requires health inspections	
Requires building code inspections	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

SQUARE FOOTAGE ↑	
Number of square feet of indoor space per child	35 square feet
Total amount of square feet for area	N/A
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	
Number of square feet of outdoor space per child	45 square feet
Total amount of square feet for area	N/A
<i>Additional requirements: For the purposes of a licensed urban child care facility, an additional minimum of 45 square feet of usable indoor play space for 25% of the licensed capacity shall be substituted for outdoor play space. The urban child care facility must provide this additional indoor space with equipment that provides physical activities appropriate for the age of the children.</i>	
Number of square feet per child, based on age of child	
Per infant	N/A
Per toddler	N/A
Per preschool-age child	N/A
Per school-age child	N/A
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

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CONDITION OF FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT	
State has requirements on the condition of the indoor area of the building/facility	✓
State has requirements on the condition of the outdoor area of the building/facility	✓
State has requirements on the condition of indoor equipment	✓
State has requirements for child care centers on the condition of outdoor equipment	✓
State has requirements for child care centers on the condition of materials and toys for children	✓

SAFETY OF FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT	
State has requirements on the safety of indoor equipment	✓
State has requirements on the safety of outdoor equipment	✓
State has requirements on the surfaces under indoor equipment	
State has requirements on the surfaces under outdoor equipment	✓
<i>Details on state requirements on surfaces under equipment:</i> Permanent playground equipment must have a ground cover or other protective surface under the equipment which provides resilience and is maintained to reduce the incidence of injuries to children in the event of falls.	
State has requirements on sleeping equipment	✓
State requires equipment to be free of components that can pinch, shear, or crush body tissues	✓

OUTDOOR SPACE	
State requires outdoor space is enclosed/has a fence	Yes
<i>Required height for fence:</i> 4 feet	
State has requirements on swimming pools	✓
State has requirements to protect children from bodies of water (ponds, lakes, rivers, etc.)	✓
State has requirements about alternatives to outdoor space	✓

FIRE SAFETY	
State has requirements on fire safety in child care centers	Yes
Centers are required to have an evacuation plan for fires	
Centers must conduct fire drills	✓
<i>Time interval for fire drills:</i> Monthly	
<i>Additional requirements:</i> N/A	

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GENERAL EMERGENCY PLANS	
Center must have a general emergency plan for all emergencies	No
Center must have a general evacuation plan for all emergencies	✓
State requires centers to conduct drills for all emergencies	
<i>Time interval between drills: N/A</i>	

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	
State has requirements on emergency preparedness	No
Centers must have emergency plans/procedures for natural disasters (tornados, hurricanes, earthquakes, other weather conditions)	
Centers must have emergency plans/procedures for utility-related problems (blackouts, etc.)	
Centers must have emergency plans/procedures for acts of terrorism	
Centers must perform drills of their emergency preparedness procedures (other than fire)	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

SECURITY	
Centers must have a procedure for accepting children when they enter the center and the release of children when they leave	✓
Centers must have a procedure for signing children in and out when they enter and exit the facility	
Centers must keep daily attendance records of children	✓
Centers must have policies on the monitoring of visitors	
Centers must have security/surveillance cameras	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

TRANSPORTATION (see also Supervision of Children Transported in Vehicles)	
State has requirements on transporting children in vehicles	Yes
State has requirements about the condition of the vehicle	✓
State has requirements about emergency equipment needed in the vehicle	
States has requirements about seating in the vehicle	
State has requirements about vehicle safety restraints for children	✓
• State has requirements about seat belts for children	✓
• State has requirements about car seats/child restraint systems	✓
State has requirements about the driver of the vehicle	✓

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First aid kit must be kept in the vehicle	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

LIABILITY INSURANCE ↑	
State requires centers to have liability insurance	Yes
General liability insurance required	No
<i>Amount of insurance required: N/A</i>	
Professional liability insurance required	No
<i>Amount of insurance required: N/A</i>	
Automobile insurance required	Yes
<i>Amount of insurance required: All child care facilities must comply with the insurance requirements found in Section 316.615, F.S.</i>	
Medical payment insurance required	No
<i>Amount of insurance required: N/A</i>	
<i>Other types of insurance required: N/A</i>	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION ↑	
State has requirements on the administration of medication to children	Yes
Centers must obtain permission from parent/guardian to administer medication to a child	✓
Center must obtain written instructions from the parent/guardian or physician on how to administer the medication <i>(Note: "Yes" response can include the instructions on a prescription or medicine container)</i>	✓
Center must maintain records of medications administered to children	✓
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

MEDICAL PROCEDURES ↑	
State has requirements on performing medical procedures on children	No
Centers must obtain permission from parent/guardian to perform a medical procedure on a child	
Centers must obtain written instructions from the parent/guardian or physician on how to perform the medical procedure	
Center must maintain records of medical procedures performed on children	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

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CARE OF MILDLY ILL CHILDREN (see also Specialized Care – Mildly Ill Children) ↑	
State has requirements on the care of mildly ill children	Yes
Centers can admit a child who is mildly ill	
Centers can exclude a child who is mildly ill	✓
<i>Additional requirements:</i> Any child, child care personnel or other person in the child care facility suspected of having a communicable disease shall be removed from the facility or placed in an isolation area until removed. Such person may not return without medical authorization, or until the signs and symptoms of the disease are no longer present.	

INCIDENT REPORTING ↑	
Centers must report to the licensing agency all serious injuries that occur to children in the program	
Centers must keep a record of all serious injuries that occur to children in the program	✓
Centers must report to the licensing agency all deaths that occur to children in the program	
<i>Additional requirements:</i> Record of accidents and incidents shall be documented daily and maintained for one year. Documentation shall include the name of the affected party, date and time of occurrence, description of occurrence, actions taken and by whom, and appropriate signatures of facility staff and custodial parent or legal guardian.	

ADDITIONAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS ↑	
Centers must have a health consultant	
Centers must have a first aid kit	✓
• Requirements specify items that must be in the first aid kit	✓
<i>Additional requirements:</i> N/A	

HAND WASHING ↑	
State has requirements on hand washing for staff	Yes
State has requirements for centers that specify when staff must wash their hands	✓
• Center staff must wash their hands after toileting	
• Center staff must wash their hands after diapering a child	✓
• Center staff must wash their hands after toileting a child	✓
• Center staff must wash their hands before and/or after preparing, serving, or eating food	
• Center staff must wash their hands after attending to an ill child	
• Center staff must wash their hands after handling, feeding, or cleaning up after animals	

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<i>Other times staff must wash their hands: After outdoor play</i>	
State has requirements on the location and/or amount of hand washing facilities for staff	
State has requirements on hand washing for children	Yes
State has requirements for centers that specify when children must wash their hands	✓
• Children must wash their hands after toileting	✓
• Children must wash their hands after diapering	✓
• Children must wash their hands before and/or after eating food	
• Children must wash their hands after handling animals	
<i>Other times children must wash their hands: After outdoor play; overnight care bedtime routine.</i>	
State has requirements on the location and/or amount of hand washing facilities for children	✓
<i>Additional requirements: Following personal hygiene procedures for themselves or when assisting others, and immediately after outdoor play, employees, volunteers, and children shall wash their hands with soap and running water, drying thoroughly.</i>	

DIAPERING	
	↑
State has requirements on diapering	Yes
State requirements specify when a staff person must change a child's diaper	
Staff person changing diaper must wear gloves	
State has requirements on discarding soiled diapers	✓
Diaper changing table and area must be sanitized after each use	✓
A sink must be available exclusively for the diapering area	
Diapering sink must not be used for food preparation	
<i>Requirements on proximity of sink to diapering area: Hand washing facilities which include a basin with running water, disposable towels or hand drying machines that are properly installed and maintained, soap, and trash receptacle shall be maintained in the infant room or in an adjoining room which opens into the room where infants or children with special needs in diapers are in care.</i>	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

SMOKING POLICIES	
	↑
State has requirements about smoking in centers	Yes
Smoking is not allowed in a child care center	✓
Smoking is not allowed on the grounds of a child care center	✓
Smoking is not allowed in the presence of children	
Smoking is not allowed in areas used for the care of children	
Smoking is not allowed in areas where food is prepared	

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Smoking is not allowed in a vehicle while transporting children	✓
Smoking is allowed in a designated area	
<i>Additional requirements:</i> Smoking is prohibited within the child care facility, all outdoor play areas, and in vehicles when being used to transport children.	

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	
↑	
State has requirements about the accessibility of hazardous supplies/materials	Yes
Hazardous supplies/materials must be kept out of the reach of children	✓
<i>Additional requirements:</i> N/A	

FIREARMS	
↑	
State has requirements about the presence of firearms in the facility	Yes
Firearms are not allowed in child care centers	✓
Firearms are allowed in child care centers, but must be in a locked container or closet	
Firearms are allowed in child care centers, but ammunition must be separate from the firearm	
Center must notify parents of the presence of firearms in the facility	
<i>Additional requirements:</i> Federal and State Law Enforcement Officers are excluded.	

ANIMALS IN FACILITY	
↑	
State has requirements about animals in the facility	Yes
Animals are allowed in child care centers	✓
Certain animals are prohibited in child care centers	
State has requirements about the care and health of animals in child care centers	✓
Centers must notify parents of the presence of animals	✓
<i>Additional requirements:</i> N/A	

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