

2005 Child Care Licensing Study Montana

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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STATE LICENSING AGENCY



LICENSING AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION		
Agency name: Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services		
Address: Quality Assurance Division Licensing Bureau, Child Care Licensing Program 2401 Colonial Drive P.O. Box 202953		
City: Helena	State: MT	Zip: 59620-2953
Phone: 406-444-2012 or 406-256-7062	Toll Free:	
Fax: 406-444-1742	E-mail:	
Web site: http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/earlychildhood/index.shtml		

NUMBER OF LICENSED FACILITIES



NUMBER OF LICENSED FACILITIES	
Child care centers	271
Small family child care homes	663
Large/group family child care homes	478
<i>Other types of licensed facilities:</i>	0
Total number of licensed facilities	1,412
Data notes:	

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LICENSED CAPACITY	
Child care centers	11,497
Small family child care homes	3,795
Large/group family child care homes	5,571
<i>Other types of licensed facilities:</i>	0
Total licensed capacity	20,863
Data notes: N/A	

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> Line staff conduct inspections and complaint investigations, review paperwork after clerical staff to double check for completeness, and investigate illegal operations.	✓
Data notes:	

NUMBER OF LICENSING STAFF



NUMBER OF LINE STAFF	
Total number of full-time equivalent line staff	13
Data notes:	

LINE STAFF ESTIMATED CASELOAD	
Estimated caseload ratio (number of facilities per staff)	109:1
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	1
Data notes:	

TYPES OF INSPECTIONS



Type of Inspection Conducted	Child Care Centers	Small Family Child Care Homes	Large/Group Family Child Care Homes
Prior to issuing a license	✓		
• Announced			
• Unannounced	✓		
Data notes: Home programs are inspected unannounced with 120 days of registration.			
License renewal	✓	✓	✓
• Announced			
• Unannounced	✓	✓	✓
Data notes: 20 percent of homes are inspected annually.			
Routine compliance	✓	✓	✓
• Announced			
• Unannounced	✓	✓	✓
Data notes:			

FREQUENCY OF INSPECTIONS



FREQUENCY OF REQUIRED INSPECTION VISITS	
Type of Facility	Frequency of Inspection Visits
Child care centers	Once a year
Small family child care homes	Less than once every 3 years
Large/group family child care homes	Less than once every 3 years
<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	1 year
Small family child care homes	1 year
Large/group family child care homes	1 year
<i>Other length of license:</i>	
<p>Data notes: A provider is offered a regular 1-year, 2-year, or 3-year license/registration. All newly licensed and registered providers are given the regular 1-year upon completion of the application requirements. After the first year of operation, a provider may request an inspection to determine compliance with what is called an extended license/registration. Upon inspection, if a provider has a perfect survey with no deficiencies, it can be awarded a 3-year license/registration. If there are five or fewer deficiencies in prescribed areas (usually paperwork issues and non-safety areas), the provider can be awarded a 2-year certificate.</p>	

INSPECTIONS AND MONITORING



FULL COMPLIANCE REVIEW	
Type of Facility	Frequency of Full Compliance Review
Child care centers	Once a year
Small family child care homes	Less than once every 3 years
Large/group family child care homes	Less than once every 3 years
<p>Data notes: Once a year in general for centers. If a center has an extended license, a full compliance review could be conducted once every 2 or 3 years.</p>	

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	No
<i>Use of form described:</i>	
Small family child care homes	No
<i>Use of form described:</i>	
Large/group family child care homes	No

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<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	No
Small family child care homes	No
Large/group family child care homes	No
Data notes:	

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>	
Small 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		
Small 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	Yes		
Small family child care homes	Yes		
Large/group family child care homes	Yes		
Data notes:			
Means of providing technical assistance/consultation	Child Care Centers	Small 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			

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On the telephone	✓	✓	✓
As needed by licensee	✓	✓	✓
<i>Other:</i>			
Data notes:			
Referrals made to other agencies/organizations/individuals for technical assistance			
Child care centers		✓	
Small family child care homes		✓	
Large/group family child care homes		✓	
<i>Agencies, organizations, or individuals used for technical assistance referrals:</i> Referrals to Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies for variety of reasons, to CACFP, mentoring projects, other professional community-based services.			

DATA AUTOMATION	
Basic licensing data is automated	Yes
Data notes: N/A	
Portable computers and inspection software used for inspections	
Child care centers	No
Small family child care homes	No
Large/group family child care homes	No
Data notes: We're currently piloting PDAs.	
<i>Other tools used for inspections and monitoring:</i> We're constantly exploring new technologies.	Yes

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS



INVESTIGATIONS	
Licensing agency conducts complaint investigations	
Child care centers	Yes
Small 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
Small 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
Small family child care homes	No

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Large/group family child care homes	No
State uses other complaint investigation staff	
Child care centers	No
Small family child care homes	No
Large/group family child care homes	No
<i>Other complaint investigation staff described:</i>	
Data notes:	
State investigates anonymous complaints	
Child care centers	Yes
Small family child care homes	Yes
Large/group family child care homes	Yes
Data notes:	

NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS				
Number of Licensing Complaints	Child Care Centers	Small Family Child Care Homes	Large/Group Family Child Care Homes	Total
Number of licensing complaints filed	0	0	0	0
Number of substantiated licensing complaints	0	0	0	0
Data notes: All state data is stored by fiscal year. There were 508 total complaints through December 2004. Data on substantiated complaints N/A.				
<i>Nature of licensing complaints:</i>				
1) Lack of supervision.				
2) Staffing and ratios.				
3) Inappropriate discipline.				
4) Transportation 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	
<i>Other agency:</i>	
Data notes:	

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Number of child abuse and neglect complaints	Child Care Centers	Small Family Child Care Homes	Large/Group Family Child Care Homes	Total
Number of child abuse and neglect complaints filed	0	0	0	0
Number of substantiated child abuse and neglect complaints	0	0	0	0
Data notes: N/A				

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS



USE OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS						
Enforcement Actions	Child Care Centers		Small Family Child Care Homes		Large/Group Family Child Care Homes	
	Used	Num.	Used	Num.	Used	Num.
Revocation of license	✓	0	✓	0	✓	0
Denial of license	✓	0	✓	0	✓	0
Immediate closure of facility	✓	0	✓	0	✓	0
Non-renewal of license	✓	0	✓	0	✓	0
Probation		0		0		0
Conditional license		0		0		0
Consent agreement	✓	0	✓	0	✓	0
Civil fine		0		0		0
Criminal fine		0		0		0
Imprisonment		0		0		0
<i>Other enforcement actions:</i>		0		0		0
Data notes: Consent agreement – stipulation.						
<i>Legal representation for licensing agency:</i> Agency has office of legal affairs and assigns attorneys to respective programs.						

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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	No, but state is planning to put inspection reports on the Internet
Data notes:	
Complaints against facilities are included in licensing reports on the Internet	N/A
Data notes:	

LICENSING FEES



LICENSING FEES CHARGED			
Fees are charged for a license			
Child care centers	No		
Small family child care homes	No		
Large/group family child care homes	No		
Data notes:			
Type of Licensing Fee	Child Care Centers	Small 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> N/A			
Data notes: N/A			
Amount of Licensing Fee	Child Care Centers	Small Family Child Care Homes	Large/Group Family Child Care Homes
Flat fee			
Fee based on maximum number of children in facility			
<i>Other type of fee:</i>			
Data notes:			

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LICENSING STAFF REQUIREMENTS



LICENSING STAFF POSITION	
Name of licensing line staff position	Child Care Licensors

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	Yes
Data notes:	
<i>Content areas or majors accepted:</i> Social work; human services/psychology; education/elementary; family & consumer science	
Experience working in a setting with children required prior to working as a licenser	Yes
Data notes:	

STAFF TRAINING	
Annual training requirements	
Additional training required each year	Yes
Data notes:	
<i>Amount of required training:</i> Staff are required to attend two training sessions set forth by the program manager annually.	
Topics covered in training:	
Regulatory issues	✓
State's regulations	✓
Health and safety issues	✓
Identifying child abuse and neglect	✓

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State's licensing policies and procedures	✓
Fire safety	✓
Early childhood education/child development	✓
Adult development	
Business administration/management	
Supervision	✓
<i>Other training topics:</i> Working with law enforcement, administrative actions, NARA curriculum.	✓
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:	
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: 3 years experience in a licensed or registered day care facility

Time frame for requirements:

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

Experience requirements:

Amount of experience required	3 years
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Qualification alternative #2: CDA credential	
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 #3: Bachelor's degree in a related field	
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	1 year

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	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	

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	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 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>	1

Qualification alternative #1: Each caregiver must have experience in the care and supervision of children.	
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	Unspecified
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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infant and toddler credential 	Bachelor's degree in early care and education or higher
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director credential 	Master's degree
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <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	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	

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	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>	1

Qualification alternative #1: Each caregiver must have experience in the care and supervision of children. Aides lacking the experience with children required by this rule may obtain such experience through provision of supervised care in the facility.	
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	Unspecified
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	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	

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

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- [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](#)
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FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

- [Environment](#)
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- [Firearms](#)
- [Animals in Facility](#)

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LICENSING REGULATIONS

CHILD CARE CENTER REGULATIONS SUMMARY	
Name of regulations: State of Montana Licensing Requirements for Child Day Care Centers	
Date of regulations: 09/01/2002	
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> "Day care center" means an out-of-home place in which day care is provided to 13 or more children on a regular basis.	
State has definition of "child care facility" or "day care facility"	Yes
<i>Text of definition:</i> "Day care facility" means a person, association or place, incorporated or unincorporated, that provides day care on a regular basis or a place licensed or registered to provide day care on an irregular basis for children suffering from illness. It includes a family day care home, a day care center, a group day care home, or a facility providing care in a child's home for the purpose of meeting registration requirements for the receipt of payments.	
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	✓

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Minimum number of hours services are provided	
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	12 or fewer
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> Related to the person by blood or marriage or under the person's legal guardianship.	
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.)	

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Program is a day camp (summer, seasonal, etc.)	
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: N/A</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"> • Any group facility established chiefly for educational purposes that limits its services to children who are 3 years of age or older. A person caring for the children of a single family. • A person, not receiving any type of state payment for day care, who is caring for children in the children's own home. 	
Data notes: N/A	

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CENTER STAFF REQUIREMENTS

[↑](#)

STAFF ROLES		
Role	Role Included in Regulations	State's Role Name
Director	Yes	Director
Master teacher	No	N/A
Teacher	Yes	Primary caregiver
Assistant teacher	No	N/A
Aide	Yes	Aide

[↑](#)

AGE AND HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS			
Role	Minimum Age Requirement	Other Age Requirements	High School Diploma or GED Required
Director	N/A	Not specified	Not required
Master teacher	N/A	N/A	N/A
Teacher	18	N/A	Not required
Assistant teacher	N/A	N/A	N/A
Aide	16	N/A	Not required
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>			

[↑](#)

OTHER ROLES IN REGULATIONS			
Role	Included in Regulations	Minimum Age Requirement	Other Requirements
Substitute		N/A	N/A
Volunteer	✓	N/A	Not specified
<i>Other roles: Driver</i>	✓	18	N/A

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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 	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional acquaintance 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous employer 		
Type of references required (written, verbal, or both)	Written	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 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required annually or at another time interval 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required for staff having contact with children 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required for staff having contact with food 	
Center staff required to have tuberculosis screening	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required at hiring 	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required annually or at another time interval 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required for staff having contact with children 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required for staff having contact with food 	
Center staff required to provide proof of immunizations	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required at hiring 	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required annually or at another time interval 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required for staff having contact with children 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required for staff having contact with food 	
Center staff must meet additional requirements regarding their health	Yes
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	

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Additional requirements: No director, caregiver, or adult in residence shall be currently diagnosed or receiving therapy or medication for a mental illness or emotional disturbance which might create a risk to children in care. Mental illness which might create a risk to children in care shall be determined by a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist. The department may request that a person obtain a psychological or psychiatric evaluation at the individual's expense if there is reasonable cause to believe such a mental illness or emotional disturbance exists. The provider and all caregivers shall possess good character, and be physically, mentally and emotionally competent to care for children and free from communicable disease.

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	Yes
• 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>	

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ORIENTATION TRAINING	
Center staff required to complete orientation training	Yes
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	
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: One day of on-the-job orientation required for aides.</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	

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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	
Administration of medication	
<i>Additional health and safety training: N/A</i>	

ONGOING TRAINING	
↑	
Ongoing training required for directors	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 master 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 teachers	Yes
Number of hours required annually	8
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>	

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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	
<i>Other: N/A</i>	
Ongoing training hours required in specific content areas for center directors	No
<i>Content of ongoing training hours: N/A</i>	
Ongoing training hours required in specific content areas for teaching staff	No
<i>Content of ongoing training hours: N/A</i>	
Types of training accepted/approved for ongoing training hours are specified	No
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	
Community-based workshops	
Distance learning methods (Internet, video conferences, etc.)	
In-service training delivered by center director	
<i>Other: N/A</i>	

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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	4:1	Not regulated
27 months	8:1	Not regulated
3 years	8:1	Not regulated
4 years	10:1	Not regulated
5 years	10:1	Not regulated
6 years	14:1	Not regulated
7 years	14:1	Not regulated
8–9 years	14:1	Not regulated
10 years and older	14:1	Not regulated
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>		

MIXED-AGE GROUPS ↑	
State permits mixed-age groupings of children	No
<i>Child-staff ratio requirements for mixed-age groups: N/A</i>	
<i>Group size requirements for mixed-age groups: N/A</i>	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

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>	

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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	
<i>Additional requirements: Caregivers must supervise children at all times. The provider and all caregivers shall be responsible for direct care, protection, supervision and guidance of children through active involvement or direct observation.</i>	

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN DURING NAPTIME	
State has requirements for the supervision of children during naptime	No
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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	

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State has specific child-staff ratio requirements for naptime	No
<i>Requirements: N/A</i>	
State has specific group size requirements for naptime	No
<i>Requirements: N/A</i>	
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

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
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: During sleeping hours, staff are awake, in the immediate vicinity, and on the same floor level of sleeping children in order to provide for the needs of children and respond to any emergency</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: Outdoor play areas shall be designed so that all parts are always visible and easily supervised by staff.</i>	

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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>	

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: The staff-child ratio shall be maintained whenever children participate in swimming activities, including swimming instruction.</i>	
State has specific group size requirements for swimming and water activities	No
<i>Requirements: N/A</i>	
<i>Additional requirements: When children are swimming, supervision must include at all times at least one person currently certified in red cross advanced life saving or an equivalent certificate by a recognized organization. This person shall not be counted in the staff-child ratio.</i>	

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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	
State has specific child-staff ratio requirements for transporting children in a vehicle	Yes
<i>Requirements:</i> There shall be 1 adult in addition to the driver for each 4 infants being transported.	
State has specific group size requirements for transporting children in a vehicle	No
<i>Requirements:</i> N/A	
<i>Additional requirements:</i> N/A	

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN DURING FIELD TRIPS ↑	
State has requirements for the supervision of children during field trips	Yes
Attendance record kept of children on field trip	
Additional staff/adults (volunteers, parents, driver) needed for field trips under certain conditions	
Written permission from parents required for field trips	✓
Emergency contact information for children taken on field trip	
Children are required to wear name tags or other identification	
Center must have written supervision plan for field trips	
State has specific child-staff ratio requirements for field trips	No
<i>Requirements:</i> N/A	
State has specific group size requirements for field trips	No
<i>Requirements:</i> N/A	
<i>Additional requirements:</i> N/A	

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CARE OF CHILDREN



AGE DEFINITIONS 	
Definition of "infant" 	
<i>Text of definition:</i> "Infant" is defined as a child under 24 months of age.	
Definition of "toddler"	
<i>Text of definition:</i> "Toddler" is defined as a child who is 24 months of age to 36 months of age.	
Definition of "preschool-age"	
<i>Text of definition:</i> "Preschooler" is defined as a child between 36 months of age and the age the child will be when he or she initially enters a public or private school system.	
Definition of "school-age"	
<i>Text of definition:</i> "School-age child" is defined as a person who is at least 5 years of age and who is younger than 13 years of age or a person with special needs, as defined by the department, who is under 18 years of age or is 18 years of age and a full time student expected to complete an educational program by 19 years of age.	

CHILDREN'S HEALTH REQUIREMENTS 	
State requires children to have a physical exam to enroll in a center	No
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:</i> N/A	
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:</i> N/A	

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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>	

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	Yes
<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: Discipline shall include positive guidance, redirection, and the setting of clear limits that foster the child's ability to become self-disciplined.</i></p>	
Specific forms of discipline/behavior guidance that centers ARE NOT ALLOWED to use are in regulations	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	✓

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<i>Other forms of discipline not allowed: Any punishment or discipline which is humiliating, shaming, frightening, or otherwise damaging is strictly prohibited.</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	✓
Group activities	✓
• 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>	

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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		
<p><i>Other areas of development:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The center provides opportunities during the day when the child can take responsibility, such as getting ready for snacks or meals, getting out or putting away materials, taking care of the child's own clothing. • The center provides experiences for children to learn about the world in which they live including opportunities for field trips to places of interest in the community and/or presentations by family and other community people to further expand the exposure and experiences of the children. • Play equipment and materials must include items from each of the following 6 categories: dramatic role playing, cognitive development, visual development, auditory development, tactile development and large-muscle development. • The center provides learning experiences for the children regarding the value of food in relation to growth and development. 		
State has requirements for the specific types of equipment/materials a center must have for children		Yes
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		
<p><i>Other types of equipment required:</i> Play equipment and materials must include items from each of the following 6 categories: dramatic role playing, cognitive development, visual development, auditory development, tactile development and large-muscle development.</p> <p><i>Additional requirements: N/A</i></p>		

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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	Yes
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	✓
• 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	
<i>Staff requirements: N/A</i>	
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	

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	✓

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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: N/A</i>	

FACILITY REQUIREMENTS [↑](#)

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 prior to licensure and annually
Requires health inspections	Required prior to licensure and annually
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	75 square feet
Total amount of square feet for area	N/A
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	
Number of square feet per child, based on age of child	
Per infant	N/A

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Per toddler	N/A
Per preschool-age child	N/A
Per school-age child	N/A
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</i>	

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: N/A</i>	
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: 4 feet</i>	
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	✓

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<i>Time interval for fire drills:</i> 8 annual emergency evacuation practices
<i>Additional requirements:</i> N/A

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:</i> N/A	

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:</i> N/A	

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:</i> N/A	

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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	✓
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	Yes
<i>Amount of insurance required: N/A</i>	
Professional liability insurance required	No
<i>Amount of insurance required: N/A</i>	
Automobile insurance required	No
<i>Amount of insurance required: N/A</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>	

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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>	

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: N/A</i>	

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: The provider shall submit a report to the appropriate local office of the department within 24 hours after the occurrence of an accident causing injury to a child which resulted in the child being hospitalized, requiring ambulance transport or intervention, or physician treatment, or any fire in the facility when the services of the fire department were required. A copy of the report shall be provided to the parents of the child(ren) involved, and a copy retained on file at the day care facility. A notation of all injuries must be made on the child's medical record including the date, time of day, nature of the injury, treatment, and whether the parent was notified.</i>	

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: N/A</i>	

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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	
<i>Other times staff must wash their hands:</i>	
After touching bare human body parts other than clean hands and clean exposed portions of arms	
After coughing, sneezing, or using a handkerchief or disposable tissue	
After engaging in other activities that contaminate the hands	
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: N/A</i>	
State has requirements on the location and/or amount of hand washing facilities for children	✓
<i>Additional requirements: N/A</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	✓

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Requirements on proximity of sink to diapering area: Equip diapering and toilet areas with a hand washing sink that is separated by at least 6 feet from the infant food preparation area, hand washing sink, and equipment used for food preparation, except if the provider submits to the local health authority a written plan which describes an alternative means that does not have the potential to cause adverse health effects.

Additional requirements: N/A

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	
Smoking is not allowed in a vehicle while transporting children	
Smoking is allowed in a designated area	
<i>Additional requirements:</i> Children shall be afforded a smoke-free environment during all day care hours, whether indoors or outdoors. The registrant or other licensee shall ensure that no smoking occurs within the facility while children are in care.	

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> N/A	

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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: N/A</i>	

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