

State of Ohio

CHILD CARE CENTER REGULATIONS

Licensing.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services or the Ohio Department of Education licenses child care centers, preschools, and school-age programs. ODJFS will inspect all centers, unannounced, at least once every 12 months and may add inspections as needed. **Licensing compliance information is available on the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services website, <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/childcare.stm> or contact the Child Care Licensing section in Columbus: phone 1-877-302-2347, Option 4 or email childcarepolicy@jfs.ohio.gov.**

The following licensing requirements represent **minimum** standards for child care.

Maximum Number of Children per teacher for Child Care Centers

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|-------------------------------------|----|
| Infants (under 12 months) | 5 |
| Infants (12- under18 months) | 6 |
| Toddlers (18- under 30 months) | 7 |
| Toddlers (30 months- under 3 years) | 8 |
| Preschoolers (3 years) | 12 |
| Preschoolers (4-5 years) | 14 |
| Schoolagers (under 11 years) | 18 |
| Schoolagers (11-15 years) | 20 |

When child care is provided for *13 or more children* in any setting or for *seven to twelve children* in a setting other than the provider's permanent residence, the setting must be *licensed* as a child care center by the The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Staff Qualifications.

Teachers and administrators must:

- Complete 15 hours in-service training annually, up to 45 hours OR have a Child Development Associate credential OR complete a mandated number of credit hours including childhood development from an accredited college or university; and
- Be trained in child development (20 hours), health and safety, child abuse recognition/prevention, first aid and communicable disease management.

Health and Safety.

- A food license or exemption status by the local health department is required and must be posted.
- A balanced diet which must meet state nutritional requirements must be provided.
- Equipment must be safe and in good condition.
- Must have a one-time building inspection in order to become licensed.
- Must have an annual fire inspection.
- Emergency plans must be posted.

State of Ohio Requirements

Rights of Parents.

Centers must make available to parents or guardians with written information on licensing; center programs, goals, philosophies, policies and procedures.

- Center name, address, telephone number and, if requested, tax ID number
- Ages and number of children in center plus licensed capacity
- Days and hours center is open
- Fees and overtime charges
- Enrollment and health information
- Sample daily program schedule for appropriate age group
- Supervision, discipline and safety policies and procedures
- Meal and snack menus; required nutritional information for parents/guardians providing food
- Emergency and health care policies and procedures
- Parent participation plan
- Transportation, field trip, special outing policies, procedures and dates
- Outdoor play and swimming policies
- Evening and overnight care availability, policies and procedures

Parents or guardians have the right to see:

- All daily activities
- All indoor and outdoor areas used by children
- Any and all records on their child or children
- Parents should also have unlimited access to the center during hours of operation
- Roster of names, phone numbers of parents/guardians with enrolled children is available upon request. (Parents can choose not to be listed.)

Child must have a physical exam and immunization prior to admission or within 30 days of enrollment.

Material and equipment that are suitable to the children's ages should be used.

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