

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. All centers are inspected twice a year, including one unannounced inspection. **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 866-886-3537, Option 4 or fax 614-728-6803.**

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

Maximum Number of Children per teacher for Child Care Centers

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.

- Teacher has at least a high school diploma plus 15 hours of in-service training annually or a Child Development Associate Credential or an Associate or higher degree in child development or early childhood education.
- Should be trained in first aid, recognition of communicable diseases, CPR, and child abuse recognition and prevention.

Health and Safety.

- A food license 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:

- Ages and number of children in center as well as its licensed capacity
- Hours center is open
- Calendar that shows days center is open and closed
- What the fees are
- Discipline and safety procedures
- Menu of meals and snacks
- Emergency and health care policies
- Roster of names, phone numbers of parents of each child (Parents can choose not to be listed.)
- Parent participation plan
- Dates of field trips and special outings
- Information on licensing; center programs, policies and procedures
- Licensing inspection and substantiated compliant investigation reports
- Toll-free number for reporting suspected violations

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

Parent/staff conferences are required for children five years or younger. For children six or older, staff are to notify parents in writing that conferences are available at the parent's request.

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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