

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 877-302-2347, 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-under 18 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 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
- Roster of names, phone numbers of parents/guardians with enrolled children (Parents can choose not to be listed.)
- 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

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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