

## STANDARDS FOR LICENSING

For further information regarding the licensing statues of this child care center contact:

Environmental Health Services  
Brevard County Government Center  
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Bldg. A  
Viera, FL 32940-6682  
Telephone: (321) 633-2100

This child care has met the state minimum child care licensure standards as outlined in Florida Statue 402.305 and listed on Chapter 65C-22, Florida Administrative Code. (All child care facilities must meet the standards established in Chapter 65C-22. However, counties which elect to do so may exceed these standards.)

Choosing an appropriate child care program is an extremely important decision for both the child and parents. The family situation as well as the child's individual needs must be considered. The child's age and developmental level are important when selecting the program which will best suit his or her needs.

All child care centers are required to comply with the state's minimum child care licensing standards. Certain counties have county jurisdiction rather than the state licensing jurisdiction. These counties are: Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Hernando, Hillsborough, Jackson, Leon, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota. Parents should contact the county licensing agency in their county to find out the specific standards used in licensing child care centers in these counties.

This brochure provides helpful information about child care centers to parents, physicians, health care professionals, teachers, social workers, and others working with children. It summarizes the activities which should be available in a good child care program, the minimum standards used to license child care centers, the qualities of a good child caregiver, and the parent's role in working with the child care center.

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Complies with HRS P1 175-24



# Know Your Child Care Center

Environmental Health Services  
Brevard County Government Center  
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Bldg. A  
Viera, FL 32940-6682  
Telephone: (321) 633-2100  
Fax: (321) 633-2163

- ◆ Provides and follows daily routines and rules that are easily understood.
- ◆ Provides children stimulating, interesting, and educational activities.
- ◆ Treats children with respect and helps build self-respect.
- ◆ Helps children to manage their behavior in a positive, constructive, and non-threatening manner.
- ◆ Understands that he/she is required by Florida law to report suspected child abuse and/or neglect.
- ◆ Provides parents with the center's written rules, guidelines, and policies.
- ◆ Accepts family cultural and ethnic differences.
- ◆ Takes time to discuss the child's progress or any problems with the parents.
- ◆ Never leaves children unsupervised.
- ◆ Notifies child's parents of child's illness, accident, or other serious incident.
- ◆ Releases children only to persons authorized by parents.
- ◆ Obtains written permission from parents for all field trips.
- ◆ Transports children only if the seat belt and child restraint laws are followed.
- ◆ Is easy to talk and work with.
- ◆ Uses a pleasant tone of voice and talks a lot to the children including infants and toddlers.
- ◆ Pays attention to the children and interacts with them, rather than chatting with other caregivers or attending to personal things.

- ◆ Participating in the center's special activities and attending schedules parents meetings and conferences.
- ◆ Talking with the caregiver about any concerns regarding the child, for example, cuts, scratches, bruises, or other injuries which may have occurred at the center, as well as discussing the child's progress and participation while at the center.
- ◆ Strongly encouraging children to talk about their experiences in child care.
- ◆ Visiting the child care center during the time the child is in care to observe different activities in which the child is involved.
- ◆ Familiarizing themselves with the child care standards used to license the child care facility. These standards may be found in Chapter 65C-22, Florida Administrative Code, unless the county has elected to meet or exceed these standards through the development of its own county child care standards.

### A CHILD CAREGIVER SHOULD BE A PERSON WHO:

- ◆ Has experience and/or training in the areas of child care and child development. Has completed or is in the process of completing the Introductory Child Training requirement.
- ◆ Participates in ongoing in-service training.
- ◆ Meets the minimum age requirement.
- ◆ Is friendly and eager to care for children.
- ◆ Feels good about his/her work.
- ◆ Is responsive, warm, and understanding and gives attention to each child's individual needs.
- ◆ Understands and accepts the different development stages and emotional moods of children.
- ◆ Follows health regulations on proper hand washing, toileting and diapering activities.
- ◆ Holds, cuddles, talks to, and plays with children.
- ◆ Has infants in cribs for sleeping and resting only.
- ◆ Always holds infants while feeding.

## WHAT IS A GOOD DAY CARE PROGRAM?

Quality child care offers the child healthy, social and educational experiences under qualified supervision in a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment. In such a center, children not only are well cared for but also participate in daily activities appropriate for their ages and developmental levels. Through these activities each child will have the opportunity to develop many skills, learn to get along with others, and build independence and self respect.

To provide a child with a sense of security, child care centers should provide a daily schedule that has some flexibility. **These are not required by Florida law.**

- ◆ Children - including infants and toddlers - have easy access to safe toys kept for them in open shelves.
- ◆ There are age-appropriate toys and games to build eye-hand coordination such as grasping toys for infants; nesting cups for toddlers; and puzzles, small building toys, and safe scissors for older children.
- ◆ Building toys, such as blocks and other accessories are added to enhance imaginary play.
- ◆ Varied experiences with language and books are provided.
- ◆ Activities are children initiated but teacher facilitated.
- ◆ Active and quiet play.
- ◆ Organized and free activities.
- ◆ Time to run, exercise, and develop coordination.
- ◆ Time for art activities and puzzles.
- ◆ Field trips to local parks, libraries, museums, firehouses, etc.
- ◆ Clean sand and water are available for play outdoors and sometimes indoors.
- ◆ Scheduled rest time.
- ◆ Time for meals and snacks.

- ◆ Space is provided for children to play alone or in small groups, protected from the pressure and competition of other children.
- ◆ Children's artwork is displayed where it is visible to children.
- ◆ Colorful pictures of everyday things are hung at the child's eye level without the use of sharp objects such as tacks.
- ◆ Sufficient number of trained staff and special time for individual adult attention and interaction.

### EVERY LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTER SHOULD: (Minimum state licensing requirement)

- ◆ Have a valid license which bears the distinctive seal of the State of Florida and is posted in a conspicuous place within the center for parents to see.
- ◆ Adhere to the number of children for which the center is licensed at any given time.
- ◆ Post a schedule of daily activities.
- ◆ Have a working telephone with police, fire, poison control, and rescue numbers posted near the telephone.
- ◆ Have a statewide toll-free telephone number, 1-800-962-2873, for reporting child abuse, and have it posted near all telephones. Reports of suspected and actual cases of child physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect received through the Florida Abuse Hotline number are referred to the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services for investigation.
- ◆ Have no less than the required minimum staff/child ratio for each age level, which is as follows:
 

Under 1 year old	1 adult for 4 infants
1 year old	1 adult for 6 infants
2 years old	1 adult for 11 children
3 years old	1 adult for 15 children
4 years old	1 adult for 20 children
5 years old or older	1 adult for 25 children

*This is the state minimum licensing standards. This standard may not indicate an adequate child/staff ratio for quality care.*

- ◆ Have a working fire extinguisher and conduct monthly fire drills with children and staff.
- ◆ Have a locked storage place that is out of the reach of children for storing cleansers, poisons, sharp instruments, matches, and other dangerous supplies.
- ◆ Have adequate, safe indoor and outdoor play space and equipment.
- ◆ Keep all medication in an area that is inaccessible to children. Medication must be in the original container and written authorization must be obtained from the parent before medicine can be administered.
- ◆ Have clean, child-sized bathroom facilities which are appropriate for the age groups served.
- ◆ Post the weekly menu.
- ◆ Have clean cots or mats and cribs so children may rest and nap.
- ◆ Have enough space for children to work and play quietly and actively with materials and equipment.
- ◆ Be accessible and appropriate for children/persons with special needs.
- ◆ Use safety restraints and car seats every time a child is in a car, bus, van, or other moving vehicle.

### THE PARENT'S ROLE

Quality child care involves not only the child but also a close working relationship between the caregiver and parents. The parent's responsibility in establishing the relationship includes:

- ◆ Providing the center with complete enrollment information including current home telephone number and numbers where they can be contacted during the day; telephone numbers of two local persons in case of an emergency (friend, neighbor, relative), and names of authorized persons with permission to take the child from the center.
- ◆ Being able to come to the center at any time during operating hours.
- ◆ Providing current and up-to-date immunization and physical records.
- ◆ Telling the caregiver any special needs the child may have, including food allergies or dislikes, procedures for nap times, toilet habits, favorite toys and games.
- ◆ Asking the caregiver about the qualifications and experience of child care staff.
- ◆ Discussing with the caregiver the center's capability to provide activities which meet the needs of all children including those who have special needs.
- ◆ Discussing with the caregiver the center's policy for disciplining children.
- ◆ Asking about child care transportation policy-is it the responsibility of the parents, or does the center provide transportation?
- ◆ Asking about the center's hours of operation (including days and times)
- ◆ Making sure to be on time when picking up children from the center and notifying the center if they going to be late to pick up their child.
- ◆ Never bring a sick child to the child care center.
- ◆ Notifying the child care center if the child is sick or if the family is going out of town and the child will not be attending.
- ◆ Finding out the cost of child care and what this includes.
- ◆ Are food, diapers, laundry, toys, educational materials, and trips extra, or are they included in the fee?
- ◆ Finding out what the payment schedule is. Does the parent pay in advance or at the end of the week? Is there a registration fee?
- ◆ Making sure children are dressed adequately for the weather and in clean and neat clothing, and that they have an extra set of clothing to change into.
- ◆ Asking the caregiver the procedures for dispensing medicine to children and having signed authorization for caregiver to dispense medicine.