

CHILD CARE FACILITY FACT SHEET

Child Care Staff Requirements:

Child Care Personnel General Requirements:

- Must be at least 16 years of age to work without direct supervision.
- Must have an eligible level 2 background screening as defined in s. 435.04, F.S.
- Must complete an employment history check.
- Must complete a sexual predator and sexual offender registry checks.
- Must complete a child abuse and neglect registry search for any state the child care personnel resided in during the preceding five years.

Training Requirements:

- Must complete the Department's 40-hour introductory child care training as evidenced by passing the required competency exams or qualifying for an educational exemption.
- Must complete 5 clock hours or 0.5 continuing education units (CEU) of approved training in early literacy and language development birth to 5 years of age.
- Must complete 10 clock hours or one CEU of annual in-service training.
- Must complete an approved training in safe sleep/shaken baby syndrome if the facility offers infant care.
- At least one staff member with a valid in-person first aid and pediatric CPR Certification must always be present on-site while children are in care.
- At least one person with a valid staff credential must be present and onsite for every twenty children in care.

Operator/Director Requirements:

- Must complete all background and training requirements listed above.
- Must be at least 21 years of age
- Must have an active director credential prior to the issuance of a license.
- Must completed basic training in serving children with disabilities within 5 years after employment. For directors supervising multiple before-school and/or after-school program sites, please see the additional requirements found in the Child Care Facility Handbook, Section 4.71.

Various exemption information can be found in s. 402.305, F.S., and s. 435.07, F.S.

Transportation Requirements:

Vehicles used by child care facilities to transport children must be equipped with a reliable alarm system approved by the Department. The list of approved alarms can be found at www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-care/child-care-alarms/alarm-manufacturing.

Child Care Facility Definition:

Pursuant to s. 402.302(2), F.S.:

Any child care center or child care arrangement which provides child care for more than five children unrelated to the operator and which receives a payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, wherever operated, and whether or not operated for profit.

Licensing Authority:

Pursuant to s. 402.308(1), F.S.:

- Every child care facility in the state, unless statutorily exempt, shall have a license which shall be renewed annually.
- Exclusions from the definition of child care facility are listed in s. 402.302(2), F.S.
For additional information regarding exemptions from licensure, please contact the Exemptions Team at 850-488-4900.

Statutes & Rules:

- Chapter 402.305, Florida Statutes (F.S.)
- Chapter 65C-22, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)

Capacity Requirements:

Pursuant to s. 402.305, F.S.:

- Indoor Square Footage: 35 square feet of usable floor space per child. 20 square feet of usable space per child if a facility was licensed by October 1, 1992, and has continued to be licensed.
- Outdoor Square Footage: 45 square feet of usable outdoor play area per child aged one and up with a minimum requirement of outdoor space for half the licensed capacity.
- Restroom Requirements: At least one toilet and one sink are required for the first 15 children of the facility's licensed capacity. At least one additional toilet and sink are required for every 30 children thereafter.

Staff-to-Child Ratio:

Pursuant to s. 402.305(4)(a), F.S.

Staff-to-Child Ratio	Age Group
1:4	Infant
1:6	One Year Old
1:11	Two-Year-Old
1:15	Three-Year-Old
1:20	Four-Year-Old
1:25	Five-Year-Old

Mixed Groups:

Groups with children under two-years-old present:
Ratio based on the lowest age group.

Groups with children two-years-old and up:
Ratio based on the age group with the largest number of children within the group.



For additional questions regarding child care licensing, please contact your regional licensing office or contact the Child Care Program Office at 850-488-4900.