

# Quality Child Care

Quality child care offers healthy, social, and educational experiences under qualified supervision in a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment. Children in these settings participate in daily, age-appropriate activities that help develop essential skills, build independence and instill self-respect.

When evaluating the quality of a child care setting, the following indicators should be considered:

### Quality Caregivers

- ✓ Are friendly and eager to care for children.
- ✓ Accept family cultural and ethnic differences.
- ✓ Are warm, understanding, encouraging, and responsive to each child's individual needs.
- ✓ Use a pleasant tone of voice and frequently hold, cuddle, and talk to the children.
- ✓ Help children manage their behavior in a positive, constructive, and non-threatening manner.
- ✓ Allow children to play alone or in small groups.
- ✓ Are attentive to and interact with the children.
- ✓ Provide stimulating, interesting, and educational activities.
- ✓ Demonstrate knowledge of social and emotional needs and developmental tasks for all children.
- ✓ Communicate with parents.

### Quality Environments

- ✓ Are clean, safe, inviting, comfortable, and child-friendly.
- ✓ Provide easy access to age-appropriate toys.
- ✓ Display children's activities and creations.
- ✓ Provide a safe and secure environment that fosters the growing independence of all children.

### Quality Activities

- ✓ Are children initiated and teacher facilitated.
- ✓ Include social interchanges with all children.
- ✓ Are expressive including play, painting, drawing, story telling, music, dancing, and other varied activities.
- ✓ Include exercise and coordination development.
- ✓ Include free play and organized activities.
- ✓ Include opportunities for all children to read, be creative, explore, and problem-solve.



To report suspected or actual cases of child abuse or neglect, please call the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-962-2073.

For additional information, please visit [www.myflorida.com/childcare](http://www.myflorida.com/childcare) or contact your local licensing office below:

**Know  
Your  
Child  
Care  
Facility**



This brochure was created by the Department of Children and Families, Child Care Program Office pursuant to s. 402.3125(5), F.S.,

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# Licensing Standards

This child care facility is licensed according to the minimum licensure standards included in section 402.305, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 65C-22, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

License Issued on   /  /  

License Expires on   /  /  

For more information regarding the compliance history of this child care provider, please visit: [www.myflorida.com/childcare](http://www.myflorida.com/childcare).

Every licensed child care facility must meet the minimum state child care licensing standards pursuant to s. 402.305, F.S., and ch. 65C-22, F.A.C., which include, but are not limited to, the following:

## General Requirements

- ✓ Valid license posted for parents to see.
- ✓ All staff appropriately screened.
- ✓ Maintain minimum staff-to-child ratios:
 

Under 1 yr. old	1:4
1 yr. old	1:6
2 yrs. old	1:11
3 yrs. old	1:15
4 yrs. old	1:20
5 yrs. old & older	1:25
- ✓ Maintain appropriate transportation vehicles *(if transportation is provided)*.

- ✓ Provide parents with written disciplinary practices used by the facility.
- ✓ Provide access to the facility during normal hours of operation.

## Physical Environment

- ✓ Maintain sufficient usable indoor floor space for playing, working, and napping.
- ✓ Provide space that is clean and free of litter and other hazards.
- ✓ Maintain sufficient lighting and inside temperatures.
- ✓ Equip with age and developmentally appropriate toys.
- ✓ Provide appropriate bathroom facilities and other furnishings.
- ✓ Provide isolation area for children who become ill.
- ✓ Practice proper hand washing, toileting, and diapering activities.

## Training Requirements

- ✓ 40-hour introductory child care training.
- ✓ 10-hour in-service training annually.
- ✓ 0.5 continuing education unit of approved training or 5 clock hours of training in early literacy and language development.
- ✓ Director Credential for all facility directors.

## Health Related Requirements

- ✓ Emergency procedures that include:
  - Posting Florida Abuse Hotline number along with other emergency numbers.
  - Staff trained in first aid and Infant/Child CPR on the premises at all times.
  - Fully stocked first aid kit.
  - A working fire extinguisher and documented monthly fire drills with children and staff.
- ✓ Medication and hazardous materials are inaccessible and out of children's reach.

## Food and Nutrition

- ✓ Post a meal and snack menu that provides daily nutritional needs of the children *(if meals are provided)*.

## Record Keeping

- ✓ Maintain accurate records that include:
  - Children's health exam/immunization record.
  - Medication records.
  - Enrollment information.
  - Personnel records.
  - Daily attendance.
  - Accidents and incidents.
  - Parental permission for field trips and administration of medications.

## Parent's Role



The parent's role in quality child care is vital to its success. In partnering with the caregiver to achieve this goal, parents should:

- ✓ Familiarize themselves with the child care standards used to license the child care facility.
- ✓ Inquire about the qualifications and experience of child care staff, as well as staff longevity.
- ✓ Know the facility's policies and procedures.
- ✓ Communicate with the caregiver.
- ✓ Visit and observe the facility.
- ✓ Participate in special activities, meetings, and conferences.
- ✓ Talk to their child about their daily experiences in child care.
- ✓ Arrange alternate care for their child when they are sick.

To report non-compliance with state licensing standards, please contact your local licensing office.