



Leaving Children to Chance

NACCRRRA's Ranking of State Standards and
Oversight for Small Family Child Care Homes

2012 Update

Acknowledgements

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About NACCRRA

NACCRRA, the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, is our nation's leading voice for child care. We work with more than 600 state and local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies to ensure that families in every local community have access to quality, affordable child care. To achieve our mission, we lead projects that increase the quality and availability of child care, offer comprehensive training to child care professionals, undertake nationally recognized research and advocate for child care policies that positively impact the lives of children and families. To learn more about NACCRRA and how you can join us in ensuring access to quality child care for all families, visit us at www.naccrra.org.

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Executive Summary

Each week, nearly 11 million children under age 5 are in some type of child care arrangement for an average of 35 hours. Nearly 15 percent of these children are in family child care homes.¹

This report is an update for NACCRRA's review of small family child care home program requirements and oversight. The previous two reports were released in 2008 and 2010.

Leaving Children to Chance: NACCRRA's Ranking of State Standards and Oversight of Small Family Child Care Homes, 2012 Update marks the sixth year that NACCRRA has undertaken a review of state child care standards and oversight.

In 2007, 2009 and 2011, NACCRRA released, *We Can Do Better*, a series of reports scoring and ranking states based on their child care center program requirements and oversight.

Leaving Children to Chance

The 2012 *Leaving Children to Chance* report scores 51 states (including the District of Columbia) and the Department of Defense (DoD) on key aspects of their small family child care homes.

NACCRRA used 16 benchmarks that represent the most basic research-based criteria. Eleven program requirements were scored as were five oversight elements. Scores were used to develop three rankings:

- Ranking for total scores for both program requirements and oversight.
- Ranking for family child care home program requirements.
- Ranking for family child care home oversight.



Of the states that scored points, the average score was 69, which was 46 percent of all possible points. Using a standard grading scale across American classrooms, this would be a failing grade.

Overall Condition of Small Family Child Care Homes

Progress has been made in many states since NACCRRA's 2010 report, but more progress is needed to really ensure that children are safe and in a quality setting.

Scores for the Top 10 states ranged from 120 to 86. Of these states, one state (*Oklahoma*) earned a "B," three states (*Washington, Kansas and Delaware*) and DoD earned a "C," four states (*Maryland, Alabama, the District of Columbia and Colorado*) earned a "D," and the 10th state – *Massachusetts*, with a score of 86, at 57 percent, earned an "F" (as do all remaining states).

Sixteen states scored zero in this report. Eight scored zero because they do not inspect family child care homes before licensing (*Iowa, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, West Virginia and Texas*). Eight others scored zero because they either allow more than six children in the home before requiring a license or do not license small family child care homes (*Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia*).

The children in these states are in a child care setting in which the safety of the home is unknown.

States have many different ways to count the number of children allowed in a small family child care home. Some states exempt the provider's own children from counting. Some states only begin counting children when a certain number of unrelated children are cared for in the home. The actual number of children in the home is important because it affects the safety of the children as well as the provider's ability to effectively interact with each child.

For example, if a fire were to occur in the home, each infant and young child would need to be evacuated safely – not just the ones that the state requires to be counted for licensing purposes.

Report Highlights

The biggest change in the *Leaving Children to Chance* Report in 2012 compared to 2010 to improve the quality of care for children occurred in Kansas.

In 2010, Kansas enacted “Lexie’s Law,”² which resulted in many improvements to the state’s approach to family child care homes, including a new requirement that all small family child care home providers be licensed. In addition, the measure required an inspection before the state grants a license.

As a result, *Kansas* scored 111 points in this report and is ranked third among all states compared to the state’s score of zero in the 2010 report.

Since the release of NACCRRA’s 2010 report, *Georgia* now inspects homes before issuing a family day care home registration certificate and requires new family child care home applicants to obtain 20 hours of pre-service training in order to register to care for children.

As a result, *Georgia* scored 84 points and is ranked 11th among all states compared to the state’s score of zero in the 2010 report.

Other highlights:

Background Checks

- *Colorado, Oklahoma and Washington* improved their background check requirements.
- **Overall, only nine states** (*Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington and West Virginia*) **conduct a comprehensive check**, which includes three states (*Alaska, Florida and Tennessee*) that also check juvenile records.
- Only 18 states check the sex offender registry.

Training Requirements

- *Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Carolina and Washington* strengthened their initial training requirements. Many of these changes were related to CPR and first aid.

Training makes a difference in the quality of care. Quality child care matters for the safety and healthy development of children. Yet, among the states:

- Initial training varies from zero to more than 40 hours of required training.
- Annual training varies from zero to 24 hours of required training.

Inspection Requirements

- *Georgia, Kansas, New Mexico and Oregon* strengthened their inspection policies.
- Eight states issue a license to family child care providers without an inspection (*Iowa, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and West Virginia*).
- Only 26 states plus *DoD* conduct inspections at least annually.
- In *California* and *Montana*, inspections occur once every five years. In *Michigan*, inspections for family child care homes occur once every 10 years.

Even the strongest program requirements are undercut by ineffective monitoring.

Health and Safety Requirements

- Overall, only 15 states address each of the 10 basic safety and 10 basic health requirements.

Federal Subsidy Accountability

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is the primary federal program allocating funds for child care with very few rules related to program requirements or oversight. As a result, as this report shows, state child care licensing and approaches to subsidy policy vary greatly.

Massachusetts, Ohio, Oklahoma, Wisconsin and DoD do not spend taxpayer dollars to pay for the care of children in unlicensed settings. All remaining states do.

More than 322,000 children whose care is paid for through CCDBG are in unlicensed care, of which nearly 112,000 are in settings with either no background check or no fingerprint check.

A background check without a fingerprint check is ineffective. Individuals can circumvent the screening process by using an alias as several state audits have shown.

- Forty states require a background check for subsidy receipt by unlicensed providers. However, in 16 of those states, no fingerprint check is required.

- ***New York* has the greatest number of children whose care is paid for with taxpayer dollars in unlicensed care without a fingerprint check against federal records – 52,358.**³

Federal Law

About \$10 billion in government funds is used annually by the states for child care. For the most part, funding for child care comes from CCDBG, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG or Title XX), and state funds.

To receive funds from CCDBG, states must have in place policies, *designed to protect the health and safety of children that are applicable to child care providers*, in the following areas:

- The prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations).
- Building and physical premise safety.
- Minimum health and safety training appropriate to the provider setting.⁴

Under the law, states are required to provide a detailed description of their licensing standards including how such standards are *effectively enforced*.

CCDBG does not require a minimum licensing standard, only that whatever licensing standard designed by the states be described. The law also does not define *effective enforcement*, which has led to varying state interpretations.

CCDBG does not require background checks for child care providers, minimum training or inspections. As a result, as shown in this report, state approaches to child care vary greatly, with many leaving children to chance.

It is time to strengthen CCDBG and state laws. It is good news that some states have made progress, but children need more than progress. All children should be safe in child care and in a setting that promotes their healthy development.

NACCRRA recommends Congress:

Reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) in the 112th Congress.

Protect children's safety

- Require comprehensive background checks for child care providers and those receiving subsidies to care for unrelated children. Substitutes and aides, other adults in the home and teenagers (all who may have unsupervised access to children) should be included in any background check requirements.
- Require states accepting federal funds for child care to prohibit the use of CCDBG or TANF funds to pay convicted felons to provide child care.
- Require states accepting federal funds for child care to share suspension and violation information with Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) so that agencies do not make referrals to programs that may be unsafe.

Promote accountability

- Require states accepting federal funds for child care to provide an evidence-based rationale for each category of license-exempt care and to disclose such information on the Internet.
- Require states accepting federal funds for child care to conduct quarterly inspections of licensed child care programs.
- Include a specific set-aside for licensing-related activities to promote the safety and healthy development of children.
- Require the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to review state Child Care and Development Fund biennial plans and impose penalties when state plans fail to meet minimum protections for children, including ineffective state monitoring practices.

Promote quality child care

- Set clear expectations about what quality means and establish a floor for what is minimally acceptable.
- Increase the CCDBG quality set-aside to 12 percent, gradually increasing it to 25 percent, on par with Head Start.
- Require states accepting federal funds for child care to require 40 hours of *initial* training.
- Require states accepting federal funds for child care to require 24 hours of *annual* training to reinforce initial training and to stay current on health and safety requirements and policies.

NACCRRA recommends states:

Strengthen state requirements and oversight.

Protect children's safety

- Require comprehensive background checks for child care providers and those receiving subsidies to care for unrelated children. Substitutes and aides, other adults in the home and teenagers (all who may have unsupervised access to children) should be included in any background check requirements.
- Require family child care providers to keep certification in first aid and CPR.
- Require family child care providers to follow the 10 recommended basic health practices and the 10 recommended basic safety practices.
- Require all paid family child care providers caring for one or more unrelated children on a regular basis (like a business) to be licensed.
- Inspect licensed homes at least quarterly.
- Share suspension and violation information with CCR&Rs so that agencies do not make referrals to programs that may not be safe.

Promote accountability

- Conduct quarterly inspections to ensure compliance with state requirements. At least some of these inspections should be unannounced.
- Ensure adequate oversight by reducing licensing staff caseloads to a ratio of no more than 50:1 to improve accountability for meeting state requirements.
- Post routine inspection reports and substantiated complaints on the Internet.

Promote quality child care

- Limit the number of children one family child care provider can care for to six. Limit the number of infants and toddlers to no more than two when older children are present or three when no older children are present.
- Require family child care providers to have at least a high school degree and be working toward a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.
- Require family child care providers to have a minimum of 40 hours of initial training in child development, discipline and guidance, recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect, working with families, learning activities, elements of child care quality, licensing requirements, fire safety, and basic health and safety.
- Require family child care providers to have a minimum of 24 hours of annual training in child development, discipline and guidance, recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect, working with families, learning activities, elements of child care quality, licensing requirements, fire safety, basic health and safety practices.
- Ensure child care providers have access to a continuum of professional development opportunities, beginning with quality community-based training programs that are linked to career ladders and tied to higher education.



- Create and expand more online training opportunities, training to better address children with special needs and training in languages other than English.
- Require family child care providers to offer activities that address eight developmental domains.
- Require family child care providers to encourage parent involvement, to communicate with parents on a daily or ongoing basis, to allow parental visits at any time their children are present, to have contracts and share written policies, and to notify parents when a substitute will be caring for their child.
- Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.

The following table shows the top 10 states. It also includes information about the states that scored zero. Eight states scored zero because they do not inspect family child care homes before licensing. The score they would have received if they did

inspect before licensing is shown in parentheses. Eight states scored zero because they define the threshold of licensing at more than six children (when the provider's own children and exempted first family are included.)

Top 10 States and States Scoring Zero: Total Scores and Rankings for Program Requirements and Oversight					
Top 10 States			States Scoring Zero		
State	Final Score*	Rank	State	Final Score*	Rank
Oklahoma	120	1	Michigan**	0 (107)	37
Washington	119	2	Montana**	0 (65)	38
Kansas	111	3	West Virginia**	0 (64)	39
Delaware	109	4	Pennsylvania**	0 (41)	40
Department of Defense	107	5	South Carolina**	0 (39)	41
Maryland	102	6	Nebraska**	0 (34)	42
Alabama	97	7	Iowa**	0 (31)	43
District of Columbia	96	8	Texas**	0 (15)	44
Colorado	95	9	Idaho^	0	52
Massachusetts	86	10	Indiana^	0	52
Total Maximum Score: 150			Louisiana^	0	52
			Mississippi^	0	52
			New Jersey^	0	52
			Ohio^	0	52
			South Dakota^	0	52
			Virginia^	0	52
<p>* Final scores reflect an adjustment based on the number of children paid providers could care for before being licensed.</p> <p>** States receive a zero if they do not inspect family child care homes prior to issuing a license. The score these states otherwise would have received is listed to the right of the zero. They are ranked at the bottom of the chart beginning with rank 37 in order reflecting their total points. For example, Michigan ranked 37th because Michigan would have received the highest total of points (107) among states scoring zero.</p> <p>^ States receive a zero if the number of children that a provider can care for without a license exceeds six.</p>					

The following table shows the total score, percent of total score and rankings for all the states in alphabetical order.

Total Score and Rankings for All States in Alphabetical Order			
States	Final Score*	Percent of Total Score	Rank
Alabama	97	65%	7
Alaska	48	32%	28
Arizona	53	35%	23
Arkansas	48	32%	28
California	38	25%	34
Colorado	95	63%	9
Connecticut	66	44%	15
Delaware	109	73%	4
Department Of Defense	107	71%	5
District Of Columbia	96	64%	8
Florida	81	54%	12
Georgia	84	56%	11
Hawaii	64	43%	16
Idaho^	0	0%	52
Illinois	60	40%	17
Indiana^	0	0%	52
Iowa**	0 (31)	0% (21%)	43
Kansas	111	74%	3
Kentucky	59	39%	20
Louisiana^	0	0%	52
Maine	46	31%	31
Maryland	102	68%	6
Massachusetts	86	57%	10
Michigan**	0 (107)	0% (71%)	37
Minnesota	60	40%	17
Mississippi^	0	0%	52
Missouri	49	33%	25
Montana**	0 (65)	0% (43%)	38
Nebraska**	0 (34)	0% (23%)	42
Nevada	34	23%	36
New Hampshire	59	39%	20
New Jersey^	0	0%	52

Total Score and Rankings for All States in Alphabetical Order			
States	Final Score*	Percent of Total Score	Rank
New Mexico	50	33%	24
New York	72	48%	13
North Carolina	69	46%	14
North Dakota	46	31%	31
Ohio^	0	0%	52
Oklahoma	120	80%	1
Oregon	36	24%	35
Pennsylvania**	0 (41)	0% (27%)	40
Rhode Island	60	40%	17
South Carolina**	0 (39)	0% (26%)	41
South Dakota^	0	0%	52
Tennessee	49	33%	25
Texas**	0 (15)	0% (10%)	44
Utah	48	32%	28
Vermont	40	27%	33
Virginia^	0	0%	52
Washington	119	79%	2
West Virginia**	0 (64)	0% (43%)	39
Wisconsin	59	39%	20
Wyoming	49	33%	25
<p>*Final scores reflect an adjustment based on the number of children paid providers could care for before being licensed.</p> <p>** States receive a zero if they do not inspect family child care homes prior to issuing a license. The score these states otherwise would have received is listed to the right of the zero.</p> <p>^States receive a zero if the number of children that a provider can care for without a license exceeds six.</p>			

Introduction

This report marks the sixth year that NACCRRA has undertaken a review of state child care standards and oversight. In 2007, 2009, and 2011 NACCRRA released *We Can Do Better: NACCRRA's Ranking of State Child Care Center Standards and Oversight*. In 2008 and 2010, NACCRRA released *Leaving Children to Chance: NACCRRA's Ranking of State Standards and Oversight of Small Family Child Care Homes*.

This report is an update to the 2010 *Leaving Children to Chance* report. More than 1.7 million children under age 6 spend time every week in family child care homes.⁵ The intent of this report (and the *Leaving Children to Chance* series) is to take an in-depth look at what individual states are doing with regard to standards and oversight for small family child care homes.

NACCRRA scored every state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD) on licensing requirements and oversight policies. In order to raise visibility about the status of small family child care home quality, NACCRRA used the scores to rank the states, the District of Columbia and DoD on their regulations and oversight. NACCRRA included DoD in the scoring because it has its own set of licensing standards and oversight. For information about the methodology, see Appendix D.

NACCRRA reviews the quality of state licensing regulations and also state oversight policies because for states to have an effective child care approach, they need to focus on both program standards and oversight. Weak program requirements may endanger children. Ineffective monitoring

undercuts even the strongest of standards. Therefore, NACCRRA reviews both to give a clear picture of the state's overall approach to child care.

Child Care is a Way of Life for Millions of American Families

Nearly 15 percent of children under age 5 of working mothers are in family child care homes.⁶ Some are licensed, some are not. State licensing thresholds, the number of children allowed to be cared for in a home before a license is required, vary greatly. In 27 states, a license is not required until four or more children (including the provider's own children) are cared for in the home.

- Eight states do not begin licensing for all family child care providers until at least seven children are cared for in the home.
- In *South Dakota*, up to 12 children can be cared for in a home before a license is required.

Therefore, *Leaving Children to Chance* takes into consideration the threshold a state sets for licensing child care. Put simply, a caregiver's ability to provide a quality setting is affected by the number of children cared for as well as the ages of those children. For example, the age mix of the children allowed in care matters because infants and toddlers have different needs compared to older children.

The quality of the setting affects the safety of the children as well as their healthy development, leading ultimately to school readiness.

According to parent focus groups NACCRRA has conducted, many parents choose family child care homes because they offer a more personal setting, a more comfortable environment “like home,” or because family child care homes tend to be less expensive and may be a more affordable option.⁷ However, what NACCRRA learned from the focus groups as well as from national parent polling, is that the number one concern among parents about child care is the quality of the setting in which children receive care.⁸

NACCRRA’s polling shows that most parents logically assume that child care settings with multiple children are licensed and that providers have had a background check and training.⁹ But, the reality is that standards vary greatly by state, and a license by itself means very little.

State Laws and Policies Vary Greatly

States use different approaches for regulating family child care homes including licensing, certification, registration, self-certification, voluntary licensing, voluntary certification, voluntary registration and voluntary self-certification. Some states combine approaches.

In some states, the process is called by one name but is defined differently in the regulation itself. In some states, the type of regulation required is linked to how many children are in care, how many different families are served or other factors. For the definitions of terms used in the varying state approaches as well as more detailed information about state processes, see Appendix C.

The complexity with regard to varying definitions as well as the complicated nature in which many state regulations are written has led to confusion among both providers and parents. This became even more apparent to NACCRRA this year as some state scores changed due solely to further clarification by state licensing staff about their regulations. What is clear is that state regulations need to be written as simply as possible for easy understanding by parents and child care providers. Even the strongest requirements mean little if people cannot understand what is required.

Most states have requirements for basic health and safety in small family child care homes. ***However, only 15 states address each of the 10 basic health and 10 basic safety requirements scored in this report.*** Since inspection of the homes is minimal in many states, there is little assurance that providers follow the requirements.

Most states have little in the way of initial training requirements before a provider is allowed to care for children in her home. State requirements for background checks vary widely, with the majority of states not conducting a complete background check (a fingerprint check against state and federal records as well as a check of the sex offender registry, child abuse registry, and a check of juvenile records for homes in which a teenager resides).

Accountability for Federal Funding

About \$10 billion in government funds is used annually by the states for child care. For the most part, funding for child care comes from the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG or Title XX), and state funds.

Since the nature of these funds is a block grant, states have wide discretion about how to spend this money. CCDBG is the primary federal program allocating funds for child care with very few rules related to program requirements or oversight.

To receive funds from CCDBG, states must have in place policies designed to protect the health and safety of children that are applicable to child care providers in the following areas:

- The prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations).
- Building and physical premise safety.
- Minimum health and safety training appropriate to the provider setting.¹⁰

States must submit a biennial plan to the Office of Child Care within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of the process of applying for CCDBG funds. Under the law, states are required to provide a detailed description of their licensing standards including how such standards are *effectively enforced*. In particular, states are required to certify procedures are in place to ensure that child care providers are in compliance.

CCDBG does not require a minimum licensing standard, only that whatever licensing standard designed by the states be described. The law also does not define *effective enforcement*, which has led to varying state interpretations. For example, only 26 states (plus DoD) inspect small family child care homes at least once a year.

In view of the performance of the states ranked in this report, most states are not complying with the intent of the law. States have made many improvements since 2008 when NACCRRA released its first report reviewing state requirements and oversight with regard to small family child care homes, but much more progress is needed to align with the intent of the law.

According to the latest data available from the Office of Child Care, about 29 percent of children whose care is paid for through CCDBG are in a family child care home setting.¹¹ This means that nearly 500,000 children (491,318) are in care paid for with taxpayer dollars, which may or may not protect their safety and may or may not promote their healthy development.

The Focus of This Report

While this report is an update to NACCRRA's 2010 *Leaving Children to Chance* report, the scores cannot be directly compared.

In reviewing the benchmarks for NACCRRA's *We Can Do Better* report, which reviews state program requirements and oversight for child care centers, against the criteria used for the review of state family child care home program requirements and oversight in the 2008 and 2010 *Leaving Children to Chance* reports, NACCRRA's update of this report includes

several new oversight benchmarks consistent with the benchmarks in *We Can Do Better*.

Whereas previous *Leaving Children to Chance* reports had a total of 140 possible points, this year's update has a total of 150 possible points. The additional benchmarks included this year relate to state oversight and transparency for parents (e.g., a benchmark was added consistent with the *We Can Do Better* report, which scores the availability of online inspection and complaint reports – for parents to have as much information as possible in selecting care for their children.)

As with previous reports, NACCRRA scored the states on several key components of their licensing standards and oversight systems, including health and safety policies and other critical features of a quality child care setting.

The benchmarks used for scoring were developed based on the available research in the field, including a review of the *13 Indicators of Quality Child Care: Research Update* by Dr. Richard Fiene for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.¹² In addition, *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care Programs, 3rd Edition*, provides information to help states develop effective child care standards.¹³

For a comprehensive literature review about the rationale for scorecard standards, see NACCRRA's 2008 and 2010 *Leaving Children to Chance* reports.

Of note this year is that states are making more progress in improving requirements and oversight for child care centers compared to small family child care homes. The average score for states in the 2011 *We Can Do Better* report was 87, which equates to a grade of 58 percent. Twenty-eight states plus DoD scored at least 90 points.

In comparison, the average score in this report for state requirements and oversight of small family child care homes was 69. A score of 69 equates to a grade of 46 percent – not even close to passing. Only eight states plus DoD scored at least 90 points.



While some of the benchmarks differed slightly due to the nature of homes versus centers, the main point remains: state standards and oversight of child care centers are better than state standards and oversight of family child care homes.

Nearly 11 million children are in child care every week, on average for 35 hours each week. Because children are in both settings, standards and oversight of both types of settings must protect children and promote their healthy development.

NACCRRRA understands that the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) is working hard to strengthen the quality of family child care homes. Many Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) work with caregivers to meet licensing requirements, to move up the ladder on state Quality Rating Improvement Systems (QRIS), and to strengthen the quality of care.

The fact remains, however, that overall state requirements for small family child care homes are weak and oversight is weaker.

The next section describes each benchmark NACCRRRA used in more detail. As the report reveals, states are making some progress, but most states still fall short of meeting these benchmarks.

Program and Oversight Benchmarks

Elements of NACCRRA's Scoring System

In selecting the standards on which the states' small family child care regulations would be rated, NACCRRA focused on only the most basic factors to ensure the health, safety and well-being of children.

NACCRRA also focused on standards which have been supported by research on family child care quality or are recommended by nationally recognized publications such as *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care Programs, 3rd Edition*¹⁴ and *13 Indicators of Quality Child Care*.¹⁵

In some cases, the standards chosen reflect the current emphasis on school readiness; for example, the recommendation that adults read to children to support literacy development. For a comprehensive literature review, see NACCRRA's 2008 and 2010 *Leaving Children to Chance* reports.

NACCRRA chose 16 key elements essential for quality small family child care homes. A small family child care home is defined as a child care setting in which up to six children, including those of the caregiver under age 6, are cared for in the home of the provider for compensation. Fifty-one states plus DoD were assessed, assigned points based on state regulations and policies and ranked based on their performance.

Based on the number of children allowed before licensing begins, NACCRRA used a sliding fractional scale to arrive at the final score.

The total maximum score a state could receive is 150. States were ranked based on their final score.

Sixteen states received a score of zero. Eight of these states received a zero because they do not inspect family child care homes prior to the state granting a license. Eight states received a zero because they either do not license small family child care homes or they allow more than six children (including the provider's own children) to be cared for in a home without requiring a license.¹

The following benchmarks were used to score the states:

- **Program Benchmark 1:** A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry, checking the sex offender registry and checking juvenile records.
- **Program Benchmark 2:** A background check is required for family child care providers, their substitutes and assistants, family members over 12 years of age and exempt providers receiving subsidies.
- **Program Benchmark 3:** Family child care providers are required to have a high school

¹ To derive the threshold for licensing, NACCRRA added one child if the state does not include the provider's own children in establishing its licensing threshold. NACCRRA added one child for each family exempted before licensing begins.

degree or a general equivalency diploma (GED) and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.

- **Program Benchmark 4:** Family child care providers are required to have 40 hours of initial training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, learning activities, business practices, health and safety, CPR and first aid.
- **Program Benchmark 5:** Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, learning activities, business practices, health and safety, CPR and first aid.
- **Program Benchmark 6:** Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight domains: motor development, language and literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages and materials that are culturally sensitive.
- **Program Benchmark 7:** Family child care providers are required to offer learning opportunities in eight domains: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce mathematical concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills and limit television.
- **Program Benchmark 8:** Family child care providers are required to address 10 health areas, including handwashing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering, home sanitation and week-end/evening care.
- **Program Benchmark 9:** Family child care providers are required to address 10 safety areas, including Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) prevention, guidance/discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, water hazards, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor play surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and

transportation. Corporal punishment is prohibited.

- **Program Benchmark 10:** Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.
- **Program Benchmark 11:** Family child care providers are required to limit the total number of children in a small family child care home based on the ages of children in care.
- **Oversight Benchmark 1:** All family child care providers who care for unrelated children for a fee are licensed.
- **Oversight Benchmark 2:** Inspect before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.
- **Oversight Benchmark 3:** Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.
- **Oversight Benchmark 4:** Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.
- **Oversight Benchmark 5:** Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.

Oversight Benchmarks 3, 4 and 5 were added in 2012 to be consistent with NACCRRRA's approach for scoring of state child care center regulations and oversight as reflected in the biennial report, *We Can Do Better*.

The following section describes each of the 11 Program Benchmarks and the five Oversight Benchmarks. It includes information about:

- Why the benchmark is important.
- What policies states have in place related to the benchmark.
- NACCRRRA recommendations to strengthen state requirements in each area.

Program Benchmark 1: Type of Background Check

A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry, checking the sex offender registry and checking juvenile records.

Parents want their children to be safe in child care.

NACCRRRA's national polling shows that parents overwhelmingly assume child care providers have background checks.¹⁶ Particularly with licensed care or for providers who are paid with taxpayer dollars, it is logical for parents to expect that caregivers (and those who come into contact with their children while in child care) are screened to ensure that they do not present the potential for harm.

Adults caring for children should:

- **Not** have a record of violent offenses.
- **Not** have a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect.
- **Not** be sex offenders.
- **Not** have engaged in criminal behaviors that indicate that they should not be in the business of caring for children.

Given the transitory nature of the child care field, it is important that a full background check is conducted for all those who will have unsupervised contact with children. A comprehensive background check includes:

- Checking Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) records (which is based on fingerprints).
- Using fingerprints to check state criminal history records.
- Checking the child abuse registry.
- Checking the sex offender registry.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) under current law contains **no** background check requirement.

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care sent an *Information Memorandum* to the states, which is the strongest encouragement possible short of a change in the law, to recommend state agencies overseeing child care licensing and child care subsidies require comprehensive criminal background checks for child care providers serving children receiving subsidies through CCDBG as well as all licensed child care providers.¹⁷

Use of fingerprints

Background checks are of limited value unless they are based on fingerprints. Individuals can have very common names or use aliases. Using only a name check can allow an individual to circumvent a criminal records check and be approved to provide child care where a fingerprint check would have revealed a criminal record.

A study of the Federal Child Safety Pilot Program¹⁸ found that requiring fingerprints is both reasonably priced and worth the effort:

- Fingerprint checks can be completed in less than a week at a modest fee (\$18 - \$24).
- Of the more than 30,000 background checks conducted, about 6.4 percent of volunteers (who sought to work with children) were found to have criminal records.
- More than 25 percent of the individuals with criminal records had committed an offense in a state other than the state in which they were applying to volunteer.

The Crime Control Act of 1990¹⁹ requires a background check for federal government employees who work in federal child care programs. The law requires that the checks be based on fingerprints and that the checks are conducted through the FBI and each state's criminal history records for which an employee lists current or former residence.

DoD expanded these requirements to include family child care providers, their assistants and substitutes and their family members age 12 and older.

Recent data improvement projects have made it easier and faster to obtain fingerprint checks. Florida made a change in 2010 to require live scanning of fingerprints instead of relying on the use of fingerprint ink cards. The background check process, which previously had taken as long as four to six weeks now is completed in as little as 24 to 48 hours. Digital prints greatly improved the quality and accuracy of the print and eliminated the provisional time when prospective employees could not be hired until a fingerprint-based screening was completed. Florida found it could implement the change without substantial cost to individuals or the state.²⁰

The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division of the FBI centralizes criminal justice information and is based on the use of fingerprints. In addition to an FBI check, a check of state databases is necessary to obtain more comprehensive data. Not all criminal history records involve offenses that states submit to the FBI. In other cases, fingerprints were not of sufficient quality to be entered into the system.²¹

Check of sex offender registry

A 2011 Government Accountability Office report about sex offenders in child care found cases of past offenders working in child care or living in homes where child care was provided.²² Given the very serious nature of sex-related crimes, parents and the public need assurance that no sex offenders are caring for children or living in the home of a licensed provider. A check of the sex offender registry should be required for everyone who comes into regular contact with children in child care.

A FBI check is not enough. Based on current levels of state reporting, law enforcement officials recommend an independent check of the sex offender registry.²³

Check of child abuse registry

A check of the state child abuse and neglect registry helps protect children from child abuse and neglect by caregivers with a history of substantiated abuse – violations that may not appear in a state or federal criminal database.²⁴ The data can be used by state licensing agencies and child care employers to screen persons who will be entrusted with the care of children.

Reports from 39 states in 2010 showed that 3,685 child care providers (including child care center staff, family child care home providers and babysitters) abused young children.²⁵

State Policies

All states but one (*Nebraska*) require a criminal records check, but only half of the states base the background check on FBI or state fingerprints. Children's safety is put at risk when a criminal history check relies on a background check that is based on a name or a number.

- Nine states (*Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington and West Virginia*) require a comprehensive background check, which includes a FBI and state criminal history check using fingerprints, a check of the child abuse registry and a check of the sex offender registry.
- Three of the nine states (*Alaska, Florida and Tennessee*) that require a comprehensive background check also include a check of juvenile records.
- Twenty-five states plus *DoD* require a FBI check, which is based on fingerprints.
- Twenty-four states require a state criminal records check using fingerprints.

- Seven states require a check of fingerprints if the applicant has not lived in the state continuously for a designated number of years (*Arkansas, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, Texas, Utah* and *Wisconsin*).
- *Nebraska* only checks child abuse registries, and simply requires “Felony/Misdemeanor Statements,” which are a form of self-disclosure of arrests and convictions.

Idaho does not license family child care until seven children are in the home. However, *Idaho* requires a background check for family day care providers caring for four or more children.

Idaho does not require a fingerprint check of either state or federal records, but does require a name-based check as well as a check of the state child abuse registry, the *Idaho* adult protection registry and the *Idaho* sex offender registry. Owners, operators and staff, others over age 13 who have unsupervised access as well as others age 13 and older who are regularly at the premises are subject to a background check.

The following table shows the number of states that require the different elements of a comprehensive background check.

Number of States Requiring Specific Elements of Background Checks	
Requirement	Number of States
Federal fingerprints	26*
State fingerprints	24
Criminal record check	43*
Child abuse registries	39*
Sex offender registries	18
Juvenile record check	11*
*Includes DoD	
NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care home providers.	

NACCRRA recommends states:

- Require a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and FBI records and checks of the state child abuse registry, sex offender registry and juvenile records (for teenagers living in the home who may have access to young children).

NACCRRA recommends Congress:

- Reauthorize CCDBG to require states that receive funds from CCDBG to conduct comprehensive background checks for licensed child care providers and for providers receiving federal subsidies (including their substitutes and aides, other adults living in the home, and family members over age 12).
- Prohibit the use of federal funds to pay convicted felons to provide child care.

Program Benchmark 2: To Whom Background Checks Apply

A background check is required for family child care providers, their substitutes and assistants, other adults in the home, teenagers in the home and exempt providers receiving subsidies.

Why this is important

Vigilance about who is interacting with children in family child care homes is particularly important because children spend so much time alone with one adult.

Parents logically assume that a child care license means child care providers have had a background check. NACCRRRA's 2010 parent poll shows that more than nine in 10 parents (92 percent) favor proposals that would require states to conduct a background check using fingerprints on every paid child care provider caring for unrelated children on a regular basis.²⁶

All people who have unsupervised contact with children should have a background check, including:

- Family child care providers.
- Substitutes and assistants.
- Other adults living in the home.
- Teenagers living in the home.
- Exempt providers receiving subsidies.

A background check for providers makes sense because they are often alone with children. However, a check of substitutes and assistants as well as other adults in the home is equally important. These individuals also have access to children and may be alone with them.

A number of states limit access to juvenile records. It is unfortunate, but there have been cases where a teenage child has abused or tormented a much younger child and upon investigation, the teenager had a history of violent behavior.

The Crime Control Act of 1990²⁷ requires a background check for federal government employees who work in federal child care programs. The law requires that the checks be based on fingerprints and that the checks are conducted through the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and each state's criminal history records for which an employee lists current or former residence. Federal agencies may deny employment to any individual convicted of "a sex crime, an offense involving a child victim, or a drug felony."

DoD expanded these requirements to include family child care providers, their assistants and substitutes and their family members age 12 and older.

A 2011 report about sex offenders at child care programs by the Government Accountability Office²⁸ found children's safety is being left to chance. Federal and state laws failed to keep sex offenders out of child care programs, including child care settings receiving federal funding.

State Policies

States are more likely to agree on who should have a background check than they are to agree on which elements should be included in a background check. Most states require licensed family child care providers, their substitutes and aides and family members over age 18 to have a background check.

The issue is not that most states conduct a background check, but rather the type of check that is conducted for licensed care.

- About half the states conduct a fingerprint check (either federal or state or both).
- Thirty-eight states and *DoD* check the child abuse registry.
- Eighteen states check the sex offender registry.

Only nine states (*Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington and West Virginia*) **conduct a comprehensive check**, which includes three states (*Alaska, Florida and Tennessee*) that also check juvenile records.

Subsidy Accountability

Massachusetts, Ohio, Oklahoma, Wisconsin and DoD do not spend taxpayer dollars to pay for unlicensed care. All remaining states do.

More than 322,000 children whose care is paid for through the federally funded Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) are in unlicensed care, of which nearly 112,000 are in settings with either no background check or no fingerprint check. A background check without a fingerprint check is ineffective. Individuals can circumvent the screening process by using an alias as several state audits have shown.

- Forty states require a background check for subsidy receipt by exempt providers. However, in 16 of those states, no fingerprint check is required.
- ***New York has the greatest number of children whose care is paid for with taxpayer dollars in unlicensed care without a fingerprint check against federal records – 52,358.***²⁹

CCDBG does not require a background check for child care providers.

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care sent an *Information Memorandum* to the states, which is the strongest encouragement possible short of a change in the law, to recommend state agencies responsible for child care licensing and child care subsidies require comprehensive criminal background checks for child care providers serving children receiving subsidies through CCDBG as well as all licensed child care providers.³⁰

The following table shows the number of states that require background checks for five categories of individuals.

Who States Require to Have Background Checks	
Requirement	Number of States
Family child care providers	44*
Substitutes or assistants	44*
Juvenile family members age 12 and older	5*
Family members at least age 18	44*
License-exempt providers	40
*Includes DoD	
NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care providers. Ohio, Oklahoma and Wisconsin do not spend taxpayer dollars on unlicensed care. Off-installation assistance paid for by DoD is in licensed settings.	

NACCRRA recommends states:

- Require a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and FBI records and checks of the state child abuse registry, sex offender registry and juvenile records (for teenagers living in the home who may have access to young children).
- Require a comprehensive background check for family child care providers caring for unrelated children, substitutes and assistants, family members over 12 years of age, and providers receiving federal subsidies.

NACCRRA recommends Congress:

- Reauthorize CCDBG to require states that receive funds from CCDBG to conduct comprehensive background checks for licensed child care providers and for providers receiving federal subsidies (including their substitutes and aides, other adults living in the home, and family members over age 12).
- Prohibit the use of federal funds to pay convicted felons to provide child care.

Program Benchmark 3: Minimum Education

Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or a general equivalency diploma (GED) and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.

Why this is important

Research has found that provider education is related to the quality of care.

Small family child care home providers with higher levels of education and more training provide higher quality care. In addition, the research suggests that education and training may be better predictors of quality in family child care homes than other factors such as child:adult ratios—at least in settings where group sizes are small.³¹

Family child care homes of more highly educated providers offer higher levels of age-appropriate stimulation – important for the healthy development of children. Research has also found that provider education is related to warmth and sensitivity toward children. A study of child care in Massachusetts found that the interactions between more highly educated providers and children were warmer and more frequent than between less-educated providers and children.³²

Although enjoying being with children may be a prerequisite to being successful, family child care home providers are small business owners. Their service is providing a safe environment that promotes children's health and development. Along with parents, they share responsibility for helping prepare children for school success.

Most family child care providers are poorly compensated. This discourages more highly educated and trained professionals from entering or staying in the child care field and contributes to business failure among family child care homes, which is estimated to be close to 40 percent.³³

Entry-level education requirements for child care providers are low. Almost half of providers (44 percent) enter the profession with a high school education or less.³⁴ Research has shown that licensed providers have more education than nonregulated providers.³⁵

Minimal educational requirements make it easy for providers with minimal skills to open family child care homes. Although education and training are often intertwined, one of the reasons that NACCRRRA recommends minimum initial and annual training requirements is related to the overall low level of education among providers. As with education, training can make a big difference in the quality of care that is provided.

As this report shows, licensing requirements cover many topics related to children's safety and health, working with parents as customers and operating a business in the home.

For the new family child care provider, these requirements can seem onerous and complicated. Licensing staff and technical assistance from Child Care Resource and Referral agencies can help providers interpret regulations.

State definitions vary. State regulations are often complicated. Regardless of the level of education of providers, state regulations need to be written as simply as possible for easy understanding by parents and child care providers. Even the strongest requirements mean little if people cannot understand what is required.

Simplicity of regulations aside, minimum education requirements would increase the likelihood that providers would understand state requirements.

NACCRRRA's position is that family child care providers should have a minimum of a high school degree and at least be working toward a

Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or an associate degree. Completing a CDA or an associate degree will help providers understand child development, health and safety issues, working with parents and managing a small business.

Providers should have an individualized professional development plan that includes progress in higher education and training to address identified needs.

State Policies

State expectations for provider education remain very low. More than half of the states do not have a minimum education requirement for family child care providers.

- Twenty-six states do not require a high school diploma or GED for small family child care providers.
- Fifteen states plus *DoD* require just the high school diploma or GED.

Since the 2010 *Leaving Children to Chance* report, the state of *Washington* added the requirement for a high school degree for small family child care providers.

Just two states have any educational requirement beyond high school:

- *Georgia* requires that small family child care providers have a CDA credential in addition to a high school degree.
- *Wisconsin* requires credits or clock hours in early childhood education in addition to a high school degree.

The following table shows the number of states with different education requirements.

Family Child Care Home Provider Qualifications By State	
Level of Education Required	Number of States
CDA	1
Credits/clock hours in ECE beyond high school	1
High school diploma or GED	16*
Less than high school diploma or GED	26
*Includes DoD	
NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care home providers.	

NACCRRA recommends states:

Require family child care providers to have a minimum of a high school degree or a GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.

Program Benchmark 4: Minimum Initial Training

Family child care providers are required to have 40 hours of initial training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, learning activities, business practices, health and safety, CPR and first aid.

Relatively low levels of education for child care providers make initial training important in protecting children's health and safety.

Training is the single most important factor in providing a quality child care setting. Training can mean the difference between life and death, can reduce the likelihood of child injuries, and can promote a stimulating environment linked to children's school readiness.

Initial training is critical to help ensure that providers have a base of knowledge about how children develop.

Better trained providers lead to higher quality care and more positive outcomes for children. Children in the care of inadequately prepared providers spend more of their day in aimless activity and show delays in language and social development.³⁶

Initial competency-based training helps ensure providers who do not have a strong formal education still have a base of professional knowledge and skills to work with children and operate a business. At a minimum, key training areas should include:

- Child development.
- Child guidance/discipline.
- Child abuse identification and prevention.
- Business practices and licensing requirements.
- Learning activities.
- CPR and first aid.
- Health and safety issues such as putting infants on their backs to sleep, administering medications, transporting children, fire drills, etc.

NACCRRA recommends 40 hours as the minimum number of hours a family child care provider needs for initial training either before or shortly after beginning caring for children.

The number of hours matter and the topics related to caring for children quickly fill up the hours. (For example, the Red Cross recommends six hours of training for individuals to be certified for CPR.) More than a checklist, training is intended to strengthen skills and improve competency and promote quality care.

Another example is the key role that child care providers play in identifying potential cases of child abuse and understanding how to report what they may suspect to authorities. More than 14,300 child care providers reported suspicions about potential child abuse in 2010.

As mandatory reporters in a position to help protect children, it is difficult for child care providers to know the law and know how to carry it out under difficult circumstances without training. Trainings on child abuse recognition, reporting, and working with families average eight hours.

In the context of other professions working with the public, 40 hours is a modest requirement. States require hundreds of training hours for manicurists or barbers who have important jobs but are not caring for lives.

NACCRRA's national polling has found that parents overwhelmingly assume licensed child care providers have had training.³⁷ The reality is that state requirements vary greatly and most state training requirements are minimal.

Federal Funding

More than \$10 billion in federal funds, through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, is spent on child care every year to enable families earning low incomes to work.

CCDBG currently does not contain a minimum training requirement for child care providers.

This places children at risk of possible injury and death in child care programs that receive funds from the federal government.

State Policies

Twenty states allow family child care providers to start caring for children with 10 or fewer hours of training either before they care for children or within the first several months of providing care.

Since the 2010 *Leaving Children to Chance* report, several states have increased their requirements for initial training:

- *Colorado* has changed its requirement for initial training hours from zero to 15. Trainees must pass a test with a minimum score of 80 percent.
- *Nevada* has changed its requirement for initial training hours from zero to 20 hours (which includes CPR and first aid).
- The state of *Washington* increased its requirement for initial training to 28 hours (which includes CPR and first aid).

The Best Among the States

- Four states (*Florida, New Mexico, Rhode Island* and *Wisconsin*) require 40 hours or more for initial training. This includes training for CPR and first aid.
- *New Mexico* requires primary caregivers to complete a 45-hour entry level course or an approved 3-credit early care and education course or an equivalent prior to or within six months of employment.

- *Wisconsin* requires 40 hours or more for initial training – providers are required to satisfactorily complete 3 credits of broad-based early childhood training (which is the equivalent of 45 clock hours) or an approved noncredit course in caring for children **before** receiving a license or working with children.
- Six states (*Alabama, Florida, Maryland, New Mexico, Rhode Island* and *Wisconsin*) and *DoD* require more than 30 hours of initial training. This includes training for CPR and first aid. *DoD* is close to 40 hours, currently at 38 with rules pending to increase the hours.
- *Florida* requires family child care providers to complete a 30-clock-hour Family Child Care Home training and pass a competency based examination with a score of 70 or better prior to licensure and working with children. Providers are also required to have five hours of literacy training and CPR and first aid certification.

States that Need to Strengthen Training:

- *Texas* has **no** requirement for hours or topics of initial training for listed homes, not even for CPR and first aid.
- Five states have **no** requirement for specific hours of initial training. In *Hawaii* and *Missouri*, CPR and first aid are required. In *Connecticut* and *Pennsylvania*, only first aid is required. *Texas* has no requirement.

The following table shows the number of states that require hours of initial training. Some states specifically include training in CPR and first aid in their hours of required training. Other states require current certification in CPR and first aid, but this training is in addition to required training hours.

For this table, when CPR and first aid certification are required in addition to other training hours, NACCRRA added eight hours to the required hours of initial training.

Initial Training Number of States by Required Hours	
Total Hours of Initial Training Required*	Number of States
0	1
1 to 10	11
11 to 20	22
21 to 30	3
31 to 39	3*
40 and higher	4
*Includes DoD. Note: Hours of initial training include additional hours added for CPR and first aid where these topics are required by states. Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care providers.	

Topics for Initial Training

- Most commonly, states require training in first aid (required by 38 states plus *DoD*), CPR (36 states plus *DoD*), and health and safety (33 states plus *DoD*).
- Twenty-one states plus *DoD* require training in child development.
- Twenty-one states plus *DoD* require training in child guidance.
- Twenty-two states plus *DoD* require training in child abuse prevention.
- Fewer than half the states require training in business practices.
- Only 15 states require initial training in learning activities.

- *South Carolina, Texas* and *Vermont* have **no** firm requirements for the topics that must be covered in initial training.
- Some states have very minimal training requirements.
- *West Virginia* only requires training in health/safety.
- *Connecticut* and *Pennsylvania* only require training in first aid.
- *Hawaii, Missouri* and *Nebraska* only require CPR and first aid.
- *New York* and *North Carolina* only require health/safety, CPR and first aid.

The following table shows the number of states that require initial training on specific topics.

Number of States that Require Initial Training on Specific Topics	
Topics Required	Number of States
Child development	22*
Child guidance	22*
Child abuse prevention	23*
Business practices	20*
Learning activities	15
Health and safety	34*
CPR	37*
First aid	39*
*Includes DoD NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care providers.	

NACCRRA recommend states:

Require family child care providers to have a minimum of 40 hours of initial training before working with children or early on after starting work with children — in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.

Program Benchmark 5: Minimum Annual Training

Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, learning activities, business practices, health and safety, CPR and first aid.

Child care providers have an enormous impact on children's development. The training of caregivers makes a difference.

Research shows the following advantages:³⁸

- Better trained providers offer better quality care, which leads to more positive outcomes for children.
- A provider's skill level helps determine whether children in care are safe and have the early learning experiences they need to succeed in school.
- Children in the care of inadequately prepared providers spend more of their day in aimless activity and show delays in language and social development.

Initial training helps ensure that providers are prepared to work with children. Annual training strengthens their ability to work with children and builds on initial training and experience on the job. Annual training helps providers:

- Improve their skills.
- Deepen their understanding about how children learn.
- Stay up-to-date on changes in health and safety practices.

Provider training has also been linked to reducing stress and increasing retention in the early childhood field.³⁹ This is particularly important in a field with an annual turnover rate that ranges from 25 to 40 percent throughout the country.⁴⁰



Research shows that family child care providers who attend training workshops (including in-service workshops, community workshops and workshops at professional association meetings) provide a higher quality child care setting.⁴¹

Training areas at a minimum should include:

- Child development.
- Child guidance.
- Child abuse prevention.
- Learning activities.
- Business practices.
- Health and safety.
- CPR and first aid.

Federal Funding

More than \$10 billion in federal funds, through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, is spent on child care every year to enable families earning low incomes to work. CCDBG does not contain a minimum training requirement for child care providers. *This places children at risk of possible injury and death in child care programs that receive funds from the federal government.*

NACCRRA recommends 24 hours as the minimum number of hours a family child care provider needs in annual training to cover basic topics.

Training is offered by multiple agencies and institutions. Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&R) are primary deliverers of training and technical assistance to child care programs and family child care providers in local communities, as are other professional organizations and individual consultants.

In recognition of the importance of ongoing training for the child care workforce, NACCRRA has launched an online training academy that offers both initial and ongoing training for providers on a variety of topics.

State Policies

NACCRRA's polling of parents and grandparents has repeatedly found that parents logically assume licensed care means that providers are subject to training requirements.⁴² The reality is that state training requirements vary greatly.

Ten states require eight hours or less of annual training. *Alabama* and *DoD* require 24 hours of annual training, including CPR and first aid.

Hours of annual training

- Seven states plus *DoD* require more than 16 hours of annual training (*Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, New Hampshire, Utah, Wisconsin* and *Wyoming*).

- *Texas* does not require ANY annual training.
- Another nine states require between one and eight hours of annual training.

The following table shows the number of states that require a range of annual training hours. Some states specifically include training in CPR and first aid in their hours of required training. Other states require current certification in CPR and first aid, but this training is in addition to required training hours. For this table, when CPR and first aid certification are required in addition to other training hours, NACCRRA added four hours to the required hours for annual training.

Required Hours of Annual Training Number of States	
Hours of Annual Training Required	Number of States
None	1
1 to 8	9
9 to 16	26
17 to 23	6
24	2*
*Includes DoD.	
Note: Hours of annual training include additional hours for CPR and first aid where required by states. Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care providers.	

Topics for annual training

- Most states require annual training in first aid (38 plus *DoD*) and CPR (38 states plus *DoD*).
- About three quarters of the states require annual training in health and safety (33 plus *DoD*), and two thirds require annual training in child development (28 plus *DoD*).
- More than half the states **do not** require any annual training in learning activities (only 19 states plus *DoD* require this annually).
- More than half the states **do not** require any annual training in child abuse prevention (only 17 states plus *DoD* require this annually).
- *Texas* has **no** annual training requirement for hours or specific topics.

- *Connecticut, the District of Columbia and Pennsylvania* have **no** required topics other than first aid. *West Virginia* only requires health and safety training.

The following table shows the number of states that require annual training on specific topics.

Number of States that Require Annual Training on Specific Topics	
Topics Required	Number of States
Child development	29*
Child guidance	26*
Child abuse prevention	18*
Business practices	23*
Learning activities	20*
Health and safety	34*
CPR	39*
First aid	39*
*Includes DoD.	
NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care providers.	

NACCRRA recommends states:

- Require family child care providers to have 24 hours or more of annual training in areas such as child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, learning activities, business practices, health and safety, CPR and first aid.
- Ensure child care providers have access to a continuum of professional development opportunities, beginning with quality community-based training programs that are linked to career ladders and tied to higher education.
- Create and expand online training opportunities, training to better address children with special needs and training in languages other than English.
- Provide incentives for child care providers to improve the quality of care and education they provide.

Program Benchmark 6: Toys and Materials to Promote Learning

Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight domains: motor development, language and literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages and materials that are culturally sensitive.

Children learn by doing. They need toys and materials that are appropriate for their age and that encourage and promote their development in all learning areas. Toys do not need to be expensive or “high-tech” — they do need to be safe, durable and of sufficient quantity so all children in care can actively be involved in activities throughout the day.

Children need toys and materials that encourage play that develops large and fine motor skills, creativity and imagination, positive social interaction, problem solving, exploration, experimentation and classification. The National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) specifies the toys and materials recommended in family child care homes as part of its accreditation standards.⁴³

NACCRRA scored states’ small family child care home regulations on whether providers are specifically required to have toys and materials in their family child care home in each of eight domains:

- Motor development.
- Science.
- Language and literacy.
- Dramatic play.
- Art.
- Books for all ages.
- Math.
- Culturally sensitive materials.

State Policies

Although it is generally accepted practice to have a variety of learning activities available to children, most state regulations do not require small family child care home providers to have a variety of learning materials.

- Two-thirds of the states (29 plus *DoD*) require that providers have toys and materials encouraging motor development (physically active play).
- More than half the states require materials for art (25 states) and for dramatic play (25 states), and half require materials for language and literacy (23 states).
- It is less common for states to require materials for science (15 states), culturally sensitive materials (14 states plus *DoD*) and math (only 12 states).

It is surprising, given the interest by policymakers throughout the country in more children entering school ready to succeed, that so few states require small family child care providers to have books available for the children in their care.

- Fewer than half (22 states) require that providers have books appropriate for all ages.

The following table shows the number of states that require toys and materials for each of the eight individual domains.

Number of States that Require Toys/Materials in Each of the Eight Developmental Domains	
Domain	Number of States
Motor development	30*
Science	15
Language and literacy	23
Dramatic play	25
Art	25
Books for all ages	22
Math	12
Culturally sensitive materials	15*
*Includes DoD	
NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care home providers.	

- Just seven states (*Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Kansas, Massachusetts, Oklahoma and Washington*) address all of the recommended developmental domains in required toys and materials for small family child care home providers.
- Twenty states, including the eight states that do not license small family child care, do not have **any** requirements that small family child care providers have toys and materials in any of the recommended domains.
- Twenty-two states plus *DoD* only address four or fewer of the recommended domains.

The following table shows the number of domains related to toys and materials that are addressed by states.

Number of States with Requirements for Toys/Materials in Multiple Domains	
Number of Domains	Number of States
None	12
1 to 4	11*
5 to 7	14
All 8	7
*Includes DoD	
NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care providers.	

NACCRRA recommends states:

Require family child care providers to have toys and materials in eight domains: motor development, language and literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages and materials that are culturally sensitive.

Program Benchmark 7: Learning Activities

Family child care providers are required to offer learning opportunities in eight domains: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce mathematical concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills and limiting television.

There is evidence that children who are reading well by third grade entered kindergarten “ready to learn.” Their experiences at home and in child care and other early education settings influenced how ready they were to start school.

Research over the past 20 years describes the phenomenal growth of the human brain from the prenatal period through age 5. During this time, children make significant gains in their social, emotional, physical and cognitive development.

The quality of care that children receive, particularly given the many hours children spend in child care, has a direct impact on their short and long-term.⁴⁴

A 2010 study by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) found that children at age 15, who had been in quality child care settings as young children, scored higher than their peers on academic and cognitive achievement and had fewer behavioral problems.⁴⁵

Family child care homes have the potential for promoting healthy child development and school readiness.

It may be that a number of family child care home providers offer learning opportunities and plan daily activities in a stimulating manner for children. But, this report is about what states require, not what individual providers may offer despite state requirements.

All states now have early learning guidelines in place that describe what children should know and be able to do at specific ages in all fundamental learning domains. Early learning guidelines help programs make decisions about assessment, curriculum, individualized instruction and professional development.

Curriculum planning related to early childhood domains is important regardless of setting to ensure varied activities designed to promote healthy development among children. Such planning should include all areas of development and should be integrated from birth through preschool and formal schooling.

Planning should address the cultural needs of all children, including those who face the added challenge of developing language and literacy skills in an entirely new language.

Yet, many states do not require family child care home providers to offer activities that promote development in key developmental domains. It is as if state early learning guidelines and child care operate in separate silos.

Recent public awareness of the problem of childhood obesity has highlighted the importance of providing young children with opportunities for physical activity throughout the day. Potential playground hazards, an over-focus on classroom learning and boring play equipment may lead to children spending too little time being physically active. Children need activities that let them exercise both body and mind in order to learn and grow.

NACCRRA scored the states' small family child care home regulations on whether they require eight learning opportunities:

- Plan learning activities.
- Offer dramatic play.
- Read to children.
- Provide for active play.
- Introduce mathematical concepts.
- Encourage self-help skills.
- Offer creative activities.
- Limit TV viewing.

State Policies

State policies vary greatly. Eight states meet all of the eight recommendations for required activities (*Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, Kansas, Michigan, Tennessee, Washington and West Virginia*).

In nearly half the states (22), four or fewer domains are required to be addressed. Thirty percent of the states (16) do **not** require family child care providers to plan learning activities, and two-thirds (34) do **not** require providers to read to children.

- Five states do not meet any of the recommended activities (*Florida, Nebraska, South Carolina, Texas and Wyoming*).
- Only 18 states require providers to read to children.
- With the rise in childhood obesity in the United States, it is important that providers play a role in encouraging physical activity. But nearly 30 percent of the states (15) do not require active physical play.
- Twenty-two states and *DoD* limit the use of TV/computer time in family child care.

The following table shows the number of states that require program activities for each of the eight identified domains.

Number of States that Require Program Activities in Each of the Eight Developmental Domains	
Domain/Activity	Number of States
Plan learning activities	36*
Offer dramatic play	21
Read to children	18
Provide for active play	37*
Introduce mathematical concepts	11
Encourage self-help skills	21
Offer creative activities	24
Limit TV viewing	23*
*Includes DoD	
NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care providers.	

The following table shows the number of domains related to learning activities that are addressed by states.

Number of States and the Number of Domains Addressed in Required Learning Activities	
Number of Domains	Number of States
None	5
1 to 4	17*
5 to 7	14
All 8	8
*Includes DoD	
NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care providers.	

NACCRRA recommends states:

- Require family child care providers to offer learning opportunities in eight domains: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce mathematical concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills and limiting television.
- Require family child care providers to use state early learning guidelines as a basis for assessment, curriculum decisions, individualized instruction and professional development plans.

Program Benchmark 8: Basic Health Requirements

Family child care providers are required to address 10 basic health areas.

Family child care providers should promote and protect children's health.

One of the few requirements under the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is that, *there are in effect within the state, under state or local law, requirements designed to protect the health and safety of children . . .*⁴⁶

While states are free to determine standards based on what they believe will best protect the health and safety of children, NACCRRA chose 10 individual standards to rate the health requirements in state regulations for small family child care homes.

Each of these basic standards is supported by research and recommendations from experts and organizations in child health. For example, several studies have demonstrated that handwashing helps manage the spread of infectious diseases in child care settings.⁴⁷

The following recommended health practices can help reduce the incidence of contagious disease among young children.

1. **Handwashing** is the single most effective way to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases, especially diarrheal diseases. Proper diapering techniques reduce the spread of disease in child care.
2. **Meals and snacks** play an important role in health because the children often spend most of their day in the family child care home.
3. **Immunizations** are an effective means of preventing the spread of infectious diseases among young children.
4. **Exclusion of ill children** protects both the sick child and other children in care.
5. **Following universal procedures** protects adults and children against the spread of human immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and hepatitis D.
6. **Medications must be administered** precisely according to a medical authority's instructions. Medicines must be inaccessible to children.
7. **Toxic substances** should be kept out of children's reach. Family child care homes should be kept free of cleaning products and other hazardous materials or products that can cause illness, injury or death to children.
8. **Hygienic diapering procedures** help reduce the spread of germs and reduce the spread of disease through the fecal-oral route.
9. **Home sanitation** and disinfection help reduce the spread of germs in family child care homes.
10. **Weekend/evening care** should have special precautions defined.

State Policies

Thirty-four states require family child care providers to address at least nine of the 10 health areas.

- Two states (*South Carolina* and *Texas*) address none of the 10 health requirements.
- Twenty-two states address all 10 of the recommended health areas.
- Twelve states address nine of the 10 recommended health areas.
- Only 25 states have regulations about universal health precautions.

- Almost all states address meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, administration of medications, limiting children's access to toxic substances, diapering and toileting and home sanitation.
- Somewhat fewer states address health issues such as sleep arrangements for weekend and evening care (33 states).

The following table shows the number of states that require specific health requirements.

Specific Health Practices Required By Number of States	
Health Requirement	Number of States
Handwashing	40*
Meals and snacks	42*
Immunizations	42*
Exclusion of ill children	41*
Universal health requirements	25
Administration of medication	41*
Toxic substances	41*
Diapering and toileting	40*
Home sanitation	42*
Weekend and evening care	33
*Includes DoD	
NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care home providers.	

The following table shows the number of health areas that states require.

Number of Health Areas Required By Number of States	
Number of Areas	Number of States
None	2
1 to 4	0
5 to 8	8*
9	12
All 10	22
*Includes DoD	
NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care providers.	

NACCRRA recommends states:

Require family child care providers to address each of the 10 basic health areas including handwashing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Program Benchmark 9: Basic Safety Requirements

Family child care providers are required to address 10 basic safety areas.

All children should be safe while they are in family child care homes.

One of the few requirements under the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is that, *there are in effect within the state, under state or local law, requirements designed to protect the health and safety of children . . .*⁴⁸

While states are free to determine standards based on what they believe will best protect the health and safety of children, NACCRRA chose 10 individual standards to rate the safety requirements in state regulations for small family child care homes.

Each of these basic standards is supported by research and recommendations from experts and organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Public Health Association. For example, placing infants on their backs to sleep reduces the potential for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

The following 10 basic safety practices are essential for keeping children safe in family child care home settings.⁴⁹

1. **Placing infants on their backs to sleep** and other safe sleeping practices reduces the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).
2. **Appropriate discipline/child guidance** promotes development and protects children from abuse and neglect.
3. **Crib safety** addresses factors that can cause strangulation or suffocation in a crib.
4. **Electrical hazards** can cause serious or fatal injuries through electrical shock. Cords can cause strangulation or tripping.
5. **Water** presents special hazards to children. Every year, young children drown in bathtubs, swimming pools and other bodies of water, large and small.

6. **Fire and Emergency Plans** prepare family child care providers to quickly evacuate infants, toddlers and preschoolers and school-age children in the event of fire or other emergency in order to prevent injury and death.
7. **Outdoor playground surfaces** need adequate impact-absorbing surfacing materials to protect children from fractures and concussions due to falls from climbing equipment.
8. **Supervision** is basic to preventing children from being injured. Providers must be able to see and hear children and to respond quickly to protect children.
9. **Door locks** should be inaccessible to children, and approved safety gates should be in place to prevent children from falling down flights of steps or getting into potentially dangerous spaces.
10. **Transportation** guidelines should cover use of safety belts and car seats and strategies for making sure no children are left in parked vehicles.

It is especially important that states specifically prohibit corporal punishment. Harsh discipline, especially corporal punishment, is a form of child abuse that should be expressly forbidden in each state. States that allow corporal punishment receive a zero score in the basic safety area.

State Policies

Thirty-two states plus *DoD* require small family child care providers to address nine or 10 of the 10 basic safety areas.

- Twenty-three states plus *DoD* address all 10 of the recommended safety areas.
- Another nine states address nine of the 10 recommended areas.

- Two states, *South Carolina* and *Texas*, do not specify **any** requirements in any of the 10 recommended safety areas.
- *South Carolina* and *Texas* do **not** prohibit corporal punishment.

Almost all states address discipline, protection from bodies of water, fire and emergency plans, transportation and direct supervision of children. Most states also address electrical hazards, safe sleeping practices/SIDS prevention and crib safety.

- Fewer states specifically address safety issues such as outdoor playground surfaces (30 states plus *DoD*) and door locks and safety gates (33 states plus *DoD*).

The following table shows the number of states that require specific safety areas.

Specific Safety Practices Required By Number of States	
Safety Requirement	Number of States
SIDS prevention	38*
Discipline	42*
Crib safety	36*
Electrical hazards	39*
Protection from bodies of water	42*
Fire and emergency plans	42*
Outdoor playground surfaces	31*
Supervision	42*
Door locks/safety gates	34*
Transportation	41*
*Includes DoD NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care providers.	

The following table shows the number of safety areas that states require.

Number of Safety Areas Required By Number of States	
Number of Areas	Number of States
None	2
1 to 4	0
5 to 8	9
9	9
All 10	24*
*Includes DoD NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care providers.	

NACCRRA recommends states:

Require family child care providers to address each of the 10 basic safety areas including Sudden Infant Death (SIDS) prevention, guidance/discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, water hazards, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor play surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. Corporal punishment should be prohibited.

Program Benchmark 10: Parent Communication

Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.

Involving parents in their children's programs benefits everyone.

Parents have valuable information about their child's needs and preferences.

Family child care is often characterized by an open relationship between parents and child care providers. In fact, many parents describe their caregiver as *one of the family*.

Open and Frequent Communication

Ongoing communication with parents allows providers and parents to give children individualized learning opportunities and use consistent discipline approaches. Informal, daily communication during arrival and departure lets parents and providers share information related to children's daily activities, special diets and allergies, accidents, physical and emotional well-being, specific fears and family traumas.

This communication is especially important when care is provided for infants, toddlers and nonverbal children when parents need to know about feeding, sleeping and other routine activities.

Child Care is a Business

Having written contracts with parents helps reduce parent-provider misunderstandings. Signing a written statement acknowledging reading and understanding the home's charges, fees and payment requirements as well as other policies and procedures (such as operating hours) at the time of enrollment, formalizes the relationship between service provider and parent. Parents accept the conditions and give authorization and approval for the activities described in the policies. Such practices help parents understand that child care (while located in a home) is still a business arrangement.

Parental Access

Parents should have access to the areas on the premises where their children are receiving child care services without prior notice during all hours of operation. Access must not disrupt instructional activities and classroom routines, but parents should feel welcome at any time as long as their child is in attendance.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which provides funding to the states for child care, contains few requirements. However, under the act, states are required to certify that procedures are in force within the State to ensure that child care providers who receive CCDBG assistance, *afford parents unlimited access to their children and to the providers caring for their children, during the normal hours of operation of such providers and whenever such children are in the care of such providers and provide a detailed description of such procedures.*⁵⁰

It is interesting to note that 39 states plus DoD require small family child care home providers to allow parents full access to the home when their children are in care. **However, four states do not require this:** *Arkansas, Minnesota, South Carolina and Texas.*

Use of Substitutes

Providers should inform parents about their plans for the use of substitutes. The plan should include information about the routine use of substitutes (for example, to pick up school-age children from school) and unscheduled use in case of an illness or other emergencies.

Parents should know the name, address and telephone number of the designated substitute. Parents should also have information about a substitute's background clearance and the completion of any required training.

Written Policies

Sharing written policies with parents allows parents the chance to understand and commit to program policies and practices. Parents need information about policies such as:

- Medication administration.
- Field trips.
- Transportation.
- Verification about individuals authorized to pick up a child.
- Behavior guidance.
- Pets in the home.
- Immunizations.
- Consequences if a child is not picked up at the designated time.
- Use of volunteers.
- Care of sick children.
- Supervision for school-age children.
- Use of screen time, including TV and video games.
- Reporting suspicions of child abuse or neglect.
- Sleeping arrangements if overnight care is provided.
- Availability of inspection reports.

State Policies

Considering the fact that parents are a family child care provider's primary customer, it is interesting that states have little emphasis on practices related to working with parents. Only nine states plus *DoD* require written contracts, and less than half (21 states plus *DoD*) require daily or regular communication with parents about how their child's day went.

- Thirty-four states plus *DoD* require that providers give parents a copy of written policies.

- Twenty-one states plus *DoD* require providers to have daily communication with parents about a child's day.
- Twenty-one states plus *DoD* require that providers inform parents when they will be relying on a substitute.
- Only four states (*Colorado, New York, Rhode Island and Washington*) and *DoD* met all five parent communication requirements.

The following table shows the number of states that require specific strategies related to communicating and working with parents.

Number of States with Specific Requirements Related to Parents	
Parent Strategies	Number of States
Daily or regular communication with parents	22*
Written contracts with parents	10*
Allow parent access when child is present	40*
Inform parents when there is a substitute	22*
Give parents a copy of written policies	35*
*Includes DoD	
NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care providers.	

NACCRRA recommends states:

Require family child care providers to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents unlimited access to the home while their child is in attendance, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.

Program Benchmark 11: Group Size

Family child care providers are required to limit the total number of children in a small family child care home based on the ages of the children in care.

The size of the group matters. In addition, the age mix of the children within the group matters. Both affect a caregiver's ability to interact with the children and protect them in case of emergency.

Research by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), as well as the National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code, recommend limiting both the total number of children and the number of infants and young toddlers in small family child care homes.

Positive relationships are a key element of children's healthy development. The ability to form warm, caring relationships is directly influenced by the number of children in the family child care home.⁵¹ Providers can give their sustained, warm and responsive attention to a limited number of children at a time.

It is also important to limit the number of very young children or infants in case of a fire or other sudden emergency that might require evacuating the home. The Fire Safety Code⁵² recommends that no more than two infants under age 2 be cared for in a family child care setting.

The total number of children in care and the number of infants who may be cared for by one provider affects both the safety of the children and the quality of care they receive.

NACCRRA's position is that the number of children in a family child care home should be limited to no more than six children preschool age or younger with two additional school-age children permitted. This includes the providers' own children. The number of children younger than age 2 should be limited to two if older children are present, or to three if only infants and toddlers are in care.

NACCRRA counted the number of children who can be cared for by one family child care provider, up to age 12. Some states allow a larger number of children in a home governed by small family child care regulations if there are two providers. Many states allow school-age children if they only attend before or after school. All children were included in total capacity.

State Policies

Too many children in a family child care home affects the health and safety of the care provided. State policies are complicated and they vary greatly. Most, however, allow too many children in the home, often of very young ages.

- Twelve states permit enrollment of seven or more children less than 6 years of age.
- Twenty-two states permit four or more infants and toddlers when no older children are present.

Total Enrollment of Children

- Twenty-one states plus *DoD* meet NACCRRA's recommendation for limits on group size with one provider.
- *Arkansas* and *Wyoming* allow a single provider to care for up to **10 preschool-age children at one time.**

The following table shows information about the maximum number of children up to age 6 that can be cared for by one family child care provider.

Group Size Limits for Total Enrollment By Number of States	
Group Size Limits	Number of States
Limit total enrollment to six or fewer children less than 6 years of age	32*
Permit enrollment of seven or more children less than 6 years of age	12
*Includes DoD NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care home providers.	

Enrollment of Infants and Toddlers

- Sixteen states plus *DoD* meet NACCRRA's recommendation to allow no more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.
- Twenty-seven states allow one family child care provider to care for three or more infants and toddlers when there are older children in care.
- Twenty-one states plus *DoD* meet NACCRRA's recommendation to allow no more than three infants and toddlers when no older children are present.
- Twenty-two states allow one family child care provider to care for four or more infants and toddlers when there are no older children in care.

The following table shows the number of states that have limits on the number of infants and toddlers that one family child care provider can care for when there are older children also in care.

Number of States with Limits on Number of Infants and Toddlers Allowed when Older Children Are Present	
Group Size Limits	Number of States
Limit number of infants and toddlers to two if older children are present	17*
Permits three or more infants and toddlers when older children are present	27
*Includes DoD NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care home providers.	

The following table shows the number of states that have limits on the number of infants and toddlers that one family child care provider can care for when there are **no** older children in care.

Number and Percent of States with Limits on Number of Infants and Toddlers Allowed when No Older Children Are Present	
Group Size Limits	Number of States
Limit number of infants and toddlers to three if no older children are present	22*
Permits four or more infants and toddlers when no older children are present	22
*Includes DoD NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care providers.	

NACCRRA recommends states:

Limit the total number of children in a small family child care home based on the ages of the children in care. Limit the number of infants and toddlers to two when there are other older children in care.

Oversight Benchmark 1: Oversight Threshold

All family child care providers who care for unrelated children for a fee are licensed.

Most parents logically assume that child care settings with multiple children are licensed and that providers have had a background check and training.⁵³

The reality is that licensing requirements vary greatly by state and that many children are in unlicensed care. While parents may logically assume child care is licensed, most states do not license small family child care homes as soon as providers care for unrelated children.

Eleven states plus DoD regulate all small family child care providers caring for one or more unrelated children.

Alabama
Connecticut
Delaware
Department of Defense
District of Columbia
Kansas
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Oklahoma
Texas
Washington

Research shows that family child care home providers who are licensed provide higher quality care and are more sensitive to the needs of children than are unlicensed providers.⁵⁴

Policymakers have expressed a wide range of views about child care. Some have said that family child care home licensing is not necessary because parents are able to view and monitor the care their children receive. Research shows parents are typically able to observe only briefly and infrequently the characteristics of out-of-home child care their children receive.⁵⁵

Research has also found that parents are reluctant to ask to tour a provider's home because they view it as a private home, not a business. Parents are also reluctant to question providers and insist on positive practices because they are afraid of losing their child care.⁵⁶

Licensing is not a guarantee that children are in quality care (as this report shows); however, licensing does set some bare minimums in most states. Unlicensed care, whether it is specifically exempted from licensing or whether it is exempt because a state does not require licensing for settings below a certain threshold, is not subject to any requirements (e.g., basic health and safety policies, training, background checks, etc.).

While some states may have some requirements for unlicensed providers caring for children who receive a subsidy, those requirements tend to be minimal and far below licensing standards.

Scoring Thresholds

NACCRRA scored the states' small family child care home oversight on the threshold for regulation – **the number of children in care at which mandatory regulation of some type is required.**

For example, in some states, this means the threshold at which child care is licensed. In the case of *South Dakota*, until 13 children are cared for in a home, the provider does not need a license.

In other states, a license is required at one threshold of children, which is relatively high, but a lower level of regulation applies to care with fewer children in the home.

For example, in *South Carolina*, when more than six children are cared for in a home, the provider needs to be licensed. **However, as soon as the provider cares for more than one unrelated family, the provider is required to be registered.** Registration means they have a working phone, they are required to complete two hours of training, and they are subject to a background check. There are also voluntary guidelines with regard to health and safety, but the guidelines are not mandatory unless the provider chooses to become licensed.

Because registration is mandatory, this is the lowest level of regulation and was what NACCRRA scored.

One reason that NACCRRA chose to score the lowest level of regulation is to view child care through the lens of parents. States use many different words in regulating child care including licensing, certification, registration, voluntary licensing, voluntary certification, voluntary registration and voluntary self-certification.

Licensing staff may know the difference among the terms, but parents do not. The terms are confusing, and the requirements can be complicated. The takeaway for many parents is that if there is a “state seal” of some type, it is state approved or licensed. Parents do not know the nuances among the words and the differing standards and requirements that might apply.

Therefore, NACCRRA scored the lowest level of mandatory regulation. Adjustments were made if a state exempted the provider's own children not

yet old enough for school or if a state permitted providers to care for children from one or more unrelated families without being licensed (or regulated in a mandatory manner). Quite simply, children count: all children.

States that do not regulate small family child care homes or permit more than six children (including the provider's own children under school-age) to be present without regulation were given a zero for their score.

A mother of three young children caring for four others is still responsible for seven children whether or not the state treats some as “invisible.”

Federally Subsidized Child Care

When children are in care funded by taxpayer dollars, there should be assurances that children are in settings that are safe and promote their healthy development.

There is no requirement under the current Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) that assistance available to families earning low incomes be used in licensed care.

The most recent data about CCDBG-funded license-exempt child care shows:⁵⁷

- Nationally, of the 1.7 million children who receive a subsidy each month, about one-fifth (19 percent) are in unlicensed care.
- Forty-one percent of children who are in settings legally operating without regulation and whose care is subsidized are cared for by nonrelatives.
- In Hawaii, 69 percent of the children whose care is paid for with CCDBG funding are in unlicensed care. In Michigan, 57 percent are in unlicensed care paid for with taxpayer dollars.
- In eight states (*Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Dakota, and Oregon*), 35 percent or more of the children whose care is paid for by CCDBG are in license-exempt care.



- In 21 states, at least one-fifth of the children whose care is paid for with CCDBG funding are in license-exempt care.

An additional 803,000 children each month are in child care subsidized by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)⁵⁸ but because there are no reporting requirements in the law, nothing is known about the type of child care where these subsidies are being used or the quality of that care.

Only *Massachusetts, Ohio, Oklahoma* and *Wisconsin* do not use CCDBG funds to pay for unlicensed care.

State policies

The biggest change in the *Leaving Children to Chance* Report in 2012 compared to 2010 to improve the quality of care for children occurred in *Kansas*.

In 2010, *Kansas* enacted “Lexie’s Law,”⁵⁹ which resulted in many improvements to the state’s approach to family child care homes, including a new requirement that all small family child

care home providers be licensed. In addition, the measure required an inspection before the state grants a license. Additional changes went into effect in February 2012, that significantly strengthened protections for children in child care.

As a result, *Kansas* scored 111 points in this report and is ranked third among all states compared to the state’s score of zero in the 2010 report.

State approaches vary greatly. Most states allow family child care home providers to accept some children for a fee on a regular basis without requiring the provider to be licensed or inspected.

- *Louisiana* and *New Jersey* only license child care centers. (For example, as soon as six children are cared for in a home in *New Jersey*, the home is licensed as a center. In *Louisiana*, as soon as seven children are cared for in a home, the home is licensed as a center.)

- Twenty-seven states regulate small family child care providers once they begin caring for four or more children, including their own children of preschool age or younger.
- Six states (*California, Colorado, Florida, Minnesota, South Carolina and Vermont*) define the regulatory threshold by the number of families cared for, not the number of children in care.
- Eight states **do not begin licensing for all family child care providers until at least seven children are in care**, including the provider's own children (*Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia*). **These states scored a zero** in this report because they do not license small family child care homes.
- Eight states **do not inspect before licensing**. For this report, **these states received a final score of zero** (*Iowa, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and West Virginia*).
- In NACCRRA's 2010 report, *Iowa* was classified as one of the states that do not regulate small family child care. *Iowa's* licensing staff clarified in their 2012 review that a provider's own children are included in the count for the state's licensing threshold. (Therefore, this report included *Iowa* in the group of states regulating small family child care. The state still receives a zero because no inspection is required before licensing).

Adjusted Threshold of Licensing and Maximum Group Size for Small Family Child Care Homes

The figure on the following page shows the number of children who can be cared for in a small family child care home. Shown in black is the "adjusted" threshold. This is the number of children who can be cared for without a license, adjusted to reflect state exemptions for the first family and the provider's own children. States with an *asterisk define the threshold of care by number of families, not children.

Eleven states plus *DoD* require regulation of all small family child care homes caring for at least one unrelated child.

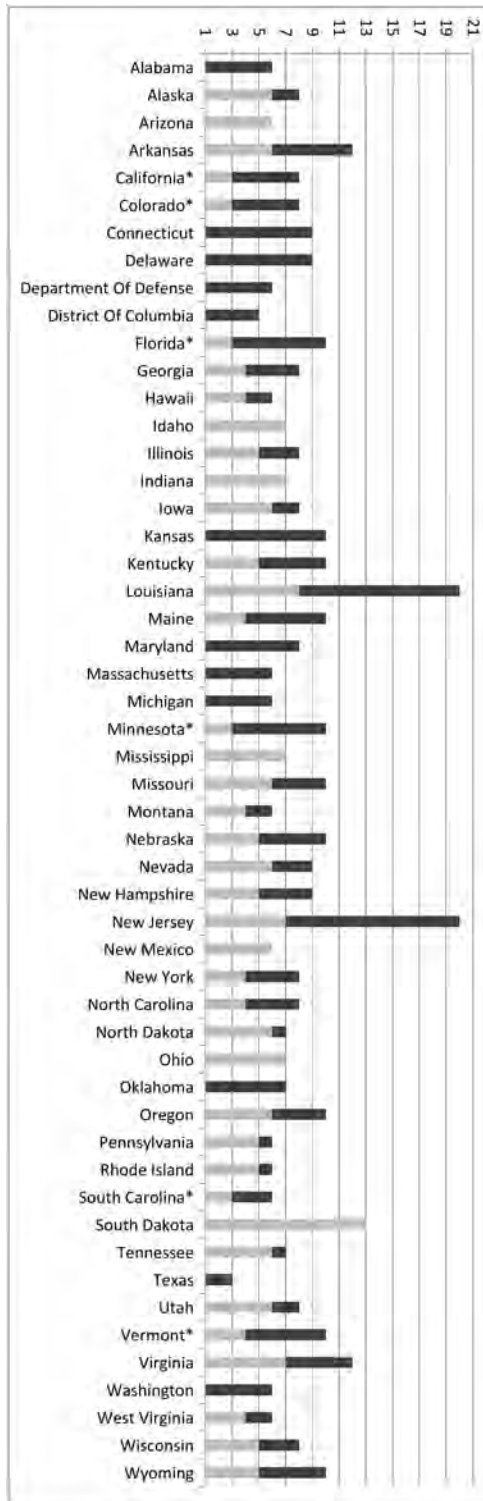
Eight states with an adjusted threshold of seven children or more (*Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia*) received a zero for this report because they do not license small family child care homes.

Shown in gray is the maximum number of children that can be cared for by a single provider.

NACCRRA recommends states:

Require all paid family child care home providers who care for unrelated children on a regular basis (like a business) be licensed.

Adjusted Threshold of Licensing and Maximum Group Size per Provider for Small Family Child Care Homes



*States with an asterisk define threshold by number of families, not children. For purposes of comparison one child was added per unrelated family. Adjusted threshold includes provider's own children, if not already counted in licensing threshold.

Oversight Benchmark 2: Inspections

Inspect before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint

Inspections help ensure those providing a service for the public good are meeting minimum basic health and safety standards.

Without inspections, consumers (in the case of child care, parents) cannot know whether the service or product they are purchasing is really safe.

Other consumer services today have regular inspections:

- Dog groomers are inspected.
- Beauty salons are inspected.
- Restaurants are inspected.

Children deserve the same level of protection.

Child care monitoring can include inspections for compliance with licensing requirements, fire standards, building codes, and health and safety requirements.

Frequent, unannounced inspections help ensure children are safe and that child care settings comply with state requirements.

Research Supports Inspections

Research has shown that inspections make a difference in the quality of care:

- Programs that are inspected more frequently are more likely to adhere to required regulations.⁶⁰
- Frequent, unannounced inspections prevent providers from covering up violations, especially when there is a history of violations and/or sanctions or complaints.

- Inspecting child care settings is associated with lower rates of accidents requiring medical attention.⁶¹

- On-site guidance during inspections helps providers improve the level of care they offer.

- There is increased accountability for how federal and state funds are spent.

Parents Support Inspections

NACCRRRA's nationwide polling of parents with young children found that two-thirds of parents logically assume child care is regularly inspected. Furthermore, 90 percent of parents support regular inspections, including for those programs operated from an individual's home.⁴⁵

Federal Funding

There is **no** requirement under the current Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) that child care programs be inspected. In contrast, under the Military Child Care Act, Congress required quarterly inspections of child care programs.

State Policies

The two biggest changes with regard to inspection policy from the 2010 *Leaving Children to Chance* report and this update occurred within *Kansas* and *Georgia*.

In 2010, *Kansas* enacted "Lexie's Law,"⁶² which resulted in many improvements to the state's approach to family child care homes, including a new requirement that all small family child care home providers be licensed. In addition, the measure required an inspection before the state grants a license. Additional changes went into effect in February 2012, that significantly strengthened protections for children in child care.

As a result, *Kansas* scored 111 points in this report and is ranked third among all states compared to the state's score of zero in the 2010 report.

Since the release of *Leaving Children to Chance* in 2010, *Georgia* now requires new Family Day Care Home applicants to obtain 20 hours of pre-service training in order to register. A pre-registration visit is conducted by the Child Care Services division prior to the issuance of a family day care home registration certificate.

As a result, *Georgia* scored 84 points in this report and is ranked 11th among all states compared to the state's score of zero in the 2010 report.

Inspection requirements throughout the states vary greatly. Less than 30 percent of states inspect family child care homes two or more times a year. **Some states inspect so infrequently that children can spend their whole child care experience in a home that has not been inspected.** More progress needs to be made.

Frequent inspections

- Four states (*Missouri, New York, Tennessee* and *Wyoming*) plus *DoD* inspect on at least a quarterly basis.
- Twenty-six states and *DoD* inspect at least annually or more often.

Infrequent Inspections

- *Michigan* inspects family child care homes once every 10 years.
- *California* and *Montana* inspect family child care homes once every five years.

No Inspections Before Licensing

- Eight states (*Iowa, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas* and *West Virginia*) **do not** inspect before licensing. For this report, **these states receive a final score of a zero.**
- In *Nebraska*, credit was allocated in NACCRRRA's 2010 report for inspecting before licensing. However, during the state's 2012 review, licensing staff clarified that the state does not require an inspection before licensing. (*Therefore, this is a change in the 2012 report unrelated to a change in policy.*)
- In *Washington*, credit was allocated in NACCRRRA's 2010 report for one inspection per year. However, during the state's 2012 review, licensing staff clarified that the state requires an inspection once every 18 months. (*Therefore, this is a change in the 2012 report unrelated to a change in policy.*)

The following table shows the number of states that require specific numbers of inspections each year.

Frequency of Inspections for Licensed Care	
Frequency	Number of States
Four or more times a year	5*
Two to three times a year	10
Once a year	12
Once every two to three years	10**
Once every four or more years	4
Not Required #	3
NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care home providers.	
*Includes DoD.	
**Washington inspects family child care homes every 18 months.	
#South Carolina, Texas and Vermont do not require routine inspections.	
Note: Delaware, DC and Rhode Island conduct a fire inspection annually.	

NACCRRRA recommends states:

- Require inspections of family child care homes before licensing (before children are admitted into care), at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.
- Post inspection reports on the Internet to allow parents to make better informed selections among child care providers.

NACCRRRA recommends Congress:

- Require a set-aside within the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) for licensing related activities.
- Require states to demonstrate how they will measure child care provider compliance with state standards, laws and policies.
- Require all child care programs to undergo quarterly unannounced inspections (similar to the nation's military child care system).
- Require states to set reasonable caseloads per inspector.
- Require states to post inspection findings and complaints on the Internet where parents can easily access the information to be better informed about child care options.

- Require states to share information with Child Care Resource and Referral agencies about license revocations and suspensions and other information that will help parents select safe, quality child care for their children.
- Strengthen Congressional oversight with regard to how states are meeting health and safety requirements.
- Grant the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) the authority to withhold funds from states without effective oversight.
- Provide discretionary funds to the HHS, Office of Child Care to provide better oversight of state implementation of CCDBG.

Oversight Benchmark 3: Oversight Caseloads

Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1

A manageable caseload for licensing staff protects children from unhealthy and unsafe care and helps improve quality.

A caseload of no more than 50 child care programs per licensing staff member allows more effective monitoring.

States have different ways of assigning programs to licensing staff. In some states, staff are only assigned to child care centers. Other states assign staff to both child care centers and family child care providers. Still other states include both child care programs and other human services programs in determining licensing staff responsibilities.

State policies

There are vast discrepancies in caseloads. In most states, the caseload is too large to allow licensing staff to conduct frequent and meaningful inspections.

- Just five states (*Alaska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Tennessee*) plus DoD have a staff caseload of 50 programs or less per licensing staff.
- There are 17 states that have a caseload of 101 programs or more per licensing staff person.
- Seven states (*California, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, Oregon, Rhode Island and Vermont*) have a caseload of more than 200 programs per staff, which is four times or more of the recommended caseload.
- *Texas* does not treat listed care as part of the caseload for licensing staff because the state does not consider listed providers to be regulated – although they require providers to be on the state list. Therefore, there is no regular oversight for listed care.

- *Connecticut* has a caseload of more than 300. Separate staff handle all complaint and enforcement activities that arise with these programs.
- *Colorado, Hawaii and Minnesota* noted that the caseload is dependent on geographic location and number of licensing staff per licensing unit/county.

The following table shows the number of states that have specific program:licensing staff ratios.

Licensing Staff Caseloads By Number of States	
Program: Licensing Staff Ratio	Number of States
101 or more :1	17**
91 to 100:1	2
81 to 90:1	7
71 to 80:1	4
61 to 70:1	6
51 to 60:1	1
50 to 1 or less:1	6*
*Includes DoD	
**The number for Minnesota is the average family child care caseload for five of Minnesota's largest counties. For scoring purposes, Texas was treated as having a caseload of 101 or more per licensing staff.	
NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care home providers.	

NACCRRA recommends states:

Ensure adequate oversight by reducing licensing staff caseloads to a ratio of no more than 50:1 to ensure compliance with state standards so that children are safe in child care and in a setting that promotes their healthy development.

Oversight Benchmark 4: Licensing Staff Qualifications

Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field

Licensing staff are responsible for understanding and interpreting state child care licensing requirements and assessing whether family child care providers are in compliance.

Effective oversight requires knowledge of child development, child care, regulatory requirements and technical assistance resources (such as CCR&Rs, other professional development organizations, fire inspectors and building inspectors).

When licensing staff do not fully understand the intent of regulations, they are more likely to ignore situations in which children's health and safety may be jeopardized.

There should also be specific training related to the state licensing regulations and associated concepts.

Staff assignments and responsibilities vary. Some staff are only assigned to child care centers. Other states assign staff to both child care centers and family child care providers. Still other states include both child care programs and other human services programs.

State Policies

Licensing staff education

State policies vary. More than half of the states require a bachelor's degree, but the remaining states accept less than an associate degree. Given the complexity of licensing regulations and the need to interpret them for providers, it is beneficial for licensing staff to have appropriate educational preparation and ongoing training.

- Twenty-one states plus *DoD* require at least a bachelor's degree in a field related to early childhood education.



The following table shows the number of states that require specific levels of education for licensing staff.

Required Licensing Staff Qualifications By Number of States	
Education Required	Number of States
Bachelor's degree or higher in ECE or related field	22*
Bachelor's degree in unrelated field	10
Less than an associate degree	12
*Includes DoD	
NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care home providers.	

NACCRRA recommends states:

Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.

Oversight Benchmark 5: Posting Inspection Reports

Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet

In the United States, a basic premise is that parents are responsible for choosing child care that best suits their family's needs and values.

For parents to make informed choices about the best care for their children, they need access to information.

One of the key sources of information about the health, safety and quality of individual child care programs is the licensing reports that result from routine inspections and inspections conducted in response to complaints.

When parents do not have access to these reports, they have no way of knowing whether a program is in compliance with state requirements.

Posting inspection reports on the Internet is important to ensure that parents have access to relevant information to help them make the best child care choices possible.

Research from *Florida* showed benefits of posting inspection and complaint reports online in a user-friendly and easily accessible format:⁶³

- Programs were inspected more frequently.
- Inspectors were more likely to provide more nuanced reviews of programs.
- The quality of child care, especially care received by children from families earning low incomes increased after inspection reports were made available on the Internet.

When states do not make the information available or when parents must visit licensing offices or wait for written responses to inquiries about specific programs, they do not have easy access to information essential to making an informed decision about child care settings. The result is that

some parents unknowingly put their children in unsafe and unhealthy situations.

State Policies

Publicity about tragic accidents in child care and recent changes in technology has resulted in more states making inspection findings available to parents on the Internet.

Currently about half of the states make inspection reports and complaint reports easily available to parents.

- Twenty-four states have inspection reports online.
- Twenty-five states have complaint reports online.

NACCRRRA expects to see more progress in coming years as states continue to develop their data systems and Web capabilities.

The following table has information about the number of states that post information about licensing reports and complaints online.

Online Inspection and Complaint Reports By Number of States	
Report	Number of States
Inspection Reports	24
Complaint Reports	25
* DoD does not offer reports online.	
NOTE: Eight states do not require licensing for small family child care home providers.	

NACCRRRA recommends states:

- Ensure transparency in licensing by allowing parents to access inspection reports on the Internet.
- Share suspension and violation information with Child Care Resource and Referral agencies so that agencies do not make referrals to programs that may be unsafe.

Ranking of States – Total Scores

for Program and Oversight Benchmarks Combined

NACCRRA chose 16 key elements essential for quality small family child care homes. Fifty-one states (including the District of Columbia) and the Department of Defense (DoD) were assessed, assigned points based on state regulations and policies and ranked based on their performance. A small family child care home is defined as a child care setting in which up to six children, including those of the caregiver under age 6, are cared for in the home of the provider for compensation.

The lowest level of required licensing/regulation was scored. Regulations were not scored unless they were required for all family child care homes in that category.

Many states have family child care homes that voluntarily agree to regulation or become regulated either because of the higher quality associated with licensing or to receive public subsidy funding. In Texas, the category of family child care where all family child care providers are required to be listed with the Department of Family and Protective Services was scored. A certificate is issued after a background check clearance.

States could receive a maximum of 10 points for each of the areas scored or partial credit based on state requirements. Based on the number of children allowed before licensing begins, NACCRRA used a sliding fractional scale to arrive at the final score. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150.

States were ranked based on their total scores.

This report was finalized in February 2012. Some states and DoD have pending changes that are scheduled to take place in 2012 after this report went to press.

- The average score in 2012 was 69 out of a possible 150 points.
- *Oklahoma* has the top score, at 120 points out of a possible 150, which is about 80 percent, closely followed by *Washington* at 119. *Kansas* is at third place with 111 points. *Delaware* is at fourth place with 109 points.
- If graded on a letter grade scale, the top state (*Oklahoma*) would earn a “B.” The next three states (*Washington*, *Kansas* and *Delaware*) and DoD would earn a “C.” All the rest of the states, including *Massachusetts* at number 10 with a score of 86, 57 percent of total points, earn a failing grade.
- *Kansas* had a dramatic change from 2010, when the state scored zero. *Kansas* made changes in both program and oversight areas. These changes were a result of enactment of “Lexie’s Law,” passed in 2010, which included a requirement that all small family child care homes be licensed and inspected. Significant collaboration at the state level resulted in additional changes to program requirements that became effective in February 2012.



- Just below the top 10, *Georgia* came in at 11th, with another dramatic improvement from zero in 2010 to 84 out of 150 in 2012. This came about from changes in legislation, including the requirement of an inspection before licensing of small family child care homes.
- Seven states (*Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Kansas, Maryland, Oklahoma* and *Washington*) and *DoD* scored high on both licensing requirements and oversight.

Weak oversight guts strong program requirements. Conversely, weak program requirements make strong oversight less effective.

- *Massachusetts* has a particularly low score on oversight with six points (ranked 33rd). This is in contrast to its program standards, which are stronger with 80 points (tied for fourth place). If its oversight were as strong as its program standards, *Massachusetts* would score a passing grade.
- *Michigan* would score in the top five if the strength of its oversight policies matched its program requirements. Because the state does not inspect before licensing, it scored a zero.

Sixteen states received a score of zero.

- Eight of these states received a zero because they do not inspect or visit family child care homes prior to the state granting a license.
- Eight states received a zero because they either do not require licensing for small family child care homes or they allow more than six children (including the provider's own children) to be cared for in a home without requiring licensing. For these states, required licensing begins with large family child care homes when seven or more children are in the family child care home.

Changes from zero in 2010

- *Georgia* and *Kansas* no longer score zero because they now inspect family child care homes before licensing them.
- In this report, *Iowa's* threshold for family child care is defined as six instead of seven as clarified by state licensing staff that the provider's own children are counted in the state threshold. Therefore, *Iowa* is included in states that license small family child care and no longer receives a zero related to licensing threshold.

However, because the state does not inspect family child care homes before licensing, the state still receives a zero. Had an inspection occurred prior to licensing, *Iowa* would have received a score of 31.

Change to zero score

- In *Nebraska*, credit was allocated in NACCRRRA's 2010 report for inspecting before licensing. However, during the state's 2012 review, state licensing staff clarified that the state does not require an inspection before licensing. (Therefore, this is a change in the 2012 report unrelated to a change in policy.)

The following table shows the top 10 states. It also includes information about the states that scored zero. Eight states scored zero because they do not inspect family child care homes before licensing. The score they would have received if they did inspect before licensing is shown in parentheses. Eight states scored zero because they define the threshold of licensing at more than six children (when the provider's own children and exempted first family are included).

Top 10 States and States Scoring Zero: Total Scores and Rankings for Program Requirements and Oversight					
Top 10 States			States Scoring Zero		
State	Final Score*	Rank	State	Final Score*	Rank
Oklahoma	120	1	Michigan**	0 (107)	37
Washington	119	2	Montana**	0 (65)	38
Kansas	111	3	West Virginia**	0 (64)	39
Delaware	109	4	Pennsylvania**	0 (41)	40
Department of Defense	107	5	South Carolina**	0 (39)	41
Maryland	102	6	Nebraska**	0 (34)	42
Alabama	97	7	Iowa**	0 (31)	43
District of Columbia	96	8	Texas**	0 (15)	44
Colorado	95	9	Idaho^	0	52
Massachusetts	86	10	Indiana^	0	52
Total Maximum Score: 150			Louisiana^	0	52
			Mississippi^	0	52
			New Jersey^	0	52
			Ohio^	0	52
			South Dakota^	0	52
			Virginia^	0	52
<p>* Final scores reflect an adjustment based on the number of children paid providers could care for before being licensed.</p> <p>** States receive a zero if they do not inspect family child care homes prior to issuing a license. The score these states otherwise would have received is listed to the right of the zero. They are ranked at the bottom of the chart 37 in order reflecting their total points. For example, Michigan ranked 37th because Michigan would have received the highest total of points (107) among states scoring zero.</p> <p>^ States receive a zero if the number of children that a provider can care for without a license exceeds six.</p>					

The following table shows the total score, percent of total score and rankings for all the states in rank order.

Total Score and Rankings for All States, in Rank Order			
State	Final Score*	Percent of Total Score	Rank
Oklahoma	120	80%	1
Washington	119	79%	2
Kansas	111	74%	3
Delaware	109	73%	4
Department Of Defense	107	71%	5
Maryland	102	68%	6
Alabama	97	65%	7
District Of Columbia	96	64%	8
Colorado	95	63%	9
Massachusetts	86	57%	10
Georgia	84	56%	11
Florida	81	54%	12
New York	72	48%	13
North Carolina	69	46%	14
Connecticut	66	44%	15
Hawaii	64	43%	16
Illinois	60	40%	17
Minnesota	60	40%	17
Rhode Island	60	40%	17
Kentucky	59	39%	20
New Hampshire	59	39%	20
Wisconsin	59	39%	20
Arizona	53	35%	23
New Mexico	50	33%	24
Missouri	50	33%	24
Tennessee	49	33%	26
Wyoming	49	33%	26
Alaska	48	32%	28
Arkansas	48	32%	28
Utah	48	32%	28
Maine	46	31%	31
North Dakota	46	31%	31

Total Score and Rankings for All States, in Rank Order

State	Final Score*	Percent of Total Score	Rank
Vermont	40	27%	33
California	38	25%	34
Oregon	36	24%	35
Nevada	34	23%	36
Michigan**	0 (107)	0% (71%)	37
Montana**	0 (65)	0% (43%)	38
West Virginia**	0 (64)	0% (43%)	39
Pennsylvania**	0 (41)	0% (27%)	40
South Carolina**	0 (39)	0% (26%)	41
Nebraska**	0 (34)	0% (23%)	42
Iowa**	0 (31)	0% (21%)	43
Texas**	0 (15)	0% (10%)	44
Idaho^	0	0%	52
Indiana^	0	0%	52
Louisiana^	0	0%	52
Mississippi^	0	0%	52
New Jersey^	0	0%	52
Ohio^	0	0%	52
South Dakota^	0	0%	52
Virginia^	0	0%	52

*Final scores reflect an adjustment based on the number of children paid providers could care for before being licensed.

** States receive a zero if they do not inspect family child care homes prior to issuing a license. The score these states otherwise would have received is listed to the right of the zero. They are ranked at the bottom of the chart beginning with rank 37 in order reflecting their total points. For example, Michigan ranked 37th because Michigan would have received the highest total of points (107) among states scoring zero.

^States receive a zero if the number of children that a provider can care for without a license exceeds six.

The following tables show information about the states that scored zero.

States Scoring Zero		
States	Number of States	Reason for Scoring Zero
Iowa, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, West Virginia	8	No inspection is required before licensing or mandatory regulation.
Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota, Virginia.	8	Does not require a license for small family child care homes. (<i>States allow more than 6 children in the home before requiring a license</i>).

States Scoring Zero by Number of Children in the Home Before Licensing					
State	Final Score*	Rank	Number of Children When Regulation Begins**		
			Licensing Regulation Threshold	Provider's Children Counted	First Family Exempt
Idaho^	0	52	7	Yes	No
Indiana^	0	52	6	No	No
Louisiana^	0	52	7	No	No
Mississippi^	0	52	6	No	No
New Jersey^	0	52	6	No	No
Ohio^	0	52	7	Yes	No
South Dakota^	0	52	13	Yes	No
Virginia^	0	52	6	No	No
Total possible score is 150					
<p>*Final scores reflect an adjustment based on the number of children paid providers could care for before being licensed.</p> <p>**To derive the total number of children in care, NACCRRRA started with the number of children in care when state licensing begins. One child was added if the state does not include the provider's own children in the licensing threshold. One child was added for each family exempted before licensing begins.</p> <p>^ States either do not license small family child care, or the number of children (including the provider's own children) the provider can care for is seven or above.</p>					

The following table shows the total score, percent of total score and rankings for all the states in alphabetical order.

Total Score and Rankings for All States in Alphabetical Order			
States	Final Score*	Percent of Total Score	Rank
Alabama	97	65%	7
Alaska	48	32%	28
Arizona	53	35%	23
Arkansas	48	32%	28
California	38	25%	34
Colorado	95	63%	9
Connecticut	66	44%	15
Delaware	109	73%	4
Department Of Defense	107	71%	5
District Of Columbia	96	64%	8
Florida	81	54%	12
Georgia	84	56%	11
Hawaii	64	43%	16
Idaho^	0	0%	52
Illinois	60	40%	17
Indiana^	0	0%	52
Iowa**	0 (31)	0% (21%)	43
Kansas	111	74%	3
Kentucky	59	39%	20
Louisiana^	0	0%	52
Maine	46	31%	31
Maryland	102	68%	6
Massachusetts	86	57%	10
Michigan**	0 (107)	0% (71%)	37
Minnesota	60	40%	17
Mississippi^	0	0%	52
Missouri	49	33%	25
Montana**	0 (65)	0% (43%)	38
Nebraska**	0 (34)	0% (23%)	42
Nevada	34	23%	36
New Hampshire	59	39%	20

Total Score and Rankings for All States in Alphabetical Order			
States	Final Score*	Percent of Total Score	Rank
New Jersey^	0	0%	52
New Mexico	50	33%	24
New York	72	48%	13
North Carolina	69	46%	14
North Dakota	46	31%	31
Ohio^	0	0%	52
Oklahoma	120	80%	1
Oregon	36	24%	35
Pennsylvania**	0 (41)	0% (27%)	40
Rhode Island	60	40%	17
South Carolina**	0 (39)	0% (26%)	41
South Dakota^	0	0%	52
Tennessee	49	33%	25
Texas**	0 (15)	0% (10%)	44
Utah	48	32%	28
Vermont	40	27%	33
Virginia^	0	0%	52
Washington	119	79%	2
West Virginia**	0 (64)	0% (43%)	39
Wisconsin	59	39%	20
Wyoming	49	33%	25
<p>*Final scores reflect an adjustment based on the number of children paid providers could care for before being licensed.</p> <p>** States receive a zero if they do not inspect family child care homes prior to issuing a license. The score these states otherwise would have received is listed to the right of the zero.</p> <p>^States receive a zero if the number of children that a provider can care for without a license exceeds six.</p>			

The following table shows the total score, percent of total score and rankings for all the states in alphabetical order. It shows the number of children

when regulation is required. The last column shows whether an inspection is required before a licensed is granted.

Total Scores and Rankings for Program Requirements and Oversight In Alphabetical Order with Licensing Thresholds							
State	Final Score*	Percent of Total Score	Rank	Number of Children When Regulation Begins*			Visit Before Licensing **
				Licensing Requirement #	Provider's Children Counted	First Family Exempt	
Alabama	97	65%	7	1	N/A	No	Yes
Alaska	48	32%	28	5	No	No	Yes
Arizona	53	35%	23	5	No	No	Yes
Arkansas	48	32%	28	6	Yes	No	Yes
California	38	25%	34	2nd Family	No	Yes	Yes
Colorado	95	63%	9	2nd Family	No	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	66	44%	15	1	N/A	No	Yes
Delaware	109	73%	4	1	N/A	No	Yes
Department Of Defense	107	71%	5	1	N/A	No	Yes
District Of Columbia	96	64%	8	1	N/A	No	Yes
Florida	81	54%	12	2nd Family	No	Yes	Yes
Georgia	84	56%	11	3	No	No	Yes
Hawaii	64	43%	16	3	No	No	Yes
Idaho^	0	0%	52	7	Yes	No	Yes
Illinois	60	40%	17	4	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indiana^	0	0%	52	6	No	No	Yes
Iowa**	0 (31)	0% (21%)	43	6	Yes	No	No
Kansas	111	74%	3	1	N/A	No	Yes
Kentucky	59	39%	20	4	No	No	Yes
Louisiana^	0	0%	52	7	No	No	Yes
Maine	46	31%	31	3	No	No	Yes
Maryland	102	68%	6	1	N/A	No	Yes
Massachusetts	86	57%	10	1	N/A	No	Yes
Michigan**	0 (107)	0% (71%)	37	1	N/A	No	No
Minnesota	60	40%	17	2nd Family	No	Yes	Yes
Mississippi^	0	0%	52	6	No	No	Yes
Missouri	50	33%	24	5	No	No	Yes
Montana**	0 (65)	0% (43%)	38	3	No	No	No
Nebraska**	0 (34)	0% (23%)	42	4	No	No	No
Nevada	34	23%	36	5	No	No	Yes
New Hampshire	59	39%	20	4	No	No	Yes
New Jersey^	0	0%	52	6	No	No	Yes

**Total Scores and Rankings for Program Requirements and Oversight
In Alphabetical Order with Licensing Thresholds**

State	Final Score*	Percent of Total Score	Rank	Number of Children When Regulation Begins*			Visit Before Licensing **
				Licensing Requirement #	Provider's Children Counted	First Family Exempt	
New Mexico	50	33%	24	5	No	No	Yes
New York	72	48%	13	3	No	No	Yes
North Carolina	69	46%	14	3	No	No	Yes
North Dakota	46	31%	31	6	Yes	No	Yes
Ohio^	0	0%	52	7	Yes	No	Yes
Oklahoma	120	80%	1	1	N/A	No	Yes
Oregon	36	24%	35	4	No	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania**	0 (41)	0% (27%)	40	4	No	No	No
Rhode Island	60	40%	17	4	No	No	Yes
South Carolina**	0 (39)	0% (26%)	41	2nd Family	No	Yes	No
South Dakota^	0	0%	52	13	Yes	No	Yes
Tennessee	49	33%	26	5	No	No	Yes
Texas**	0 (15)	0% (10%)	44	1	N/A	No	No
Utah	48	32%	28	5	No	No	Yes
Vermont	40	27%	33	3rd Family	No	Yes	Yes
Virginia^	0	0%	52	6	No	No	Yes
Washington	119	79%	2	1	N/A	No	Yes
West Virginia**	0 (64)	0% (43%)	39	4	Yes	No	No
Wisconsin	59	39%	20	4	No	No	Yes
Wyoming	49	33%	26	3	No	Yes	Yes

Total possible score is 150

*Final scores reflect an adjustment based on the number of children paid providers could care for before being licensed.

** States receive a zero if they do not inspect family child care homes prior to issuing a license. The score these states otherwise would have received is listed to the right of the zero.

^States receive a zero if the number of children that a provider can care for without a license exceeds six.

This report scores the lowest level of regulation in states (i.e., the level at which regulation is mandatory for all providers). In Texas, licensing begins with the 4th child, but providers caring for 1-3 children are required to be listed. Therefore, this report reviews requirements for listed care. In South Carolina, providers are required to be registered with the second family (2-6 children). Licensing is not required until a provider is caring for seven children in the home. This report reviews requirements for registered care because it is the lowest level of mandatory regulation.

The following table shows the scores and ranks for the top 10 states for oversight and the top 10 states for program requirements.

Top 10 States for Oversight Scores and Ranks			Top 10 States for Program Scores and Ranks		
State	Oversight Scores and Rank		State	Program Scores and Rank	
	Score*	Rank		Score*	Rank
Oklahoma	38	1	Washington	90	1
Kansas	34	2	Delaware	83	2
Maryland	29	3	Oklahoma	82	3
Washington	29	3	Department Of Defense	80	4
Florida	28	5	Massachusetts	80	4
Department Of Defense	27	6	Kansas	77	6
Delaware	26	7	Alabama	75	7
New York	25	8	Maryland	73	8
District Of Columbia	24	9	Colorado	72	9
Colorado	23	10	District Of Columbia	72	9
North Carolina	23	10			
*Final scores reflect an adjustment based on the number of children paid providers could care for before being licensed.					

Seven states and DoD are in the top 10 for **both** oversight and program standards: (*Colorado, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Kansas, Maryland, Oklahoma and Washington*) and *DoD*.

Program Benchmarks

Ranking of States

Small family child care home program requirements

- **Program Benchmark 1:** A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry, checking the sex offender registry and checking juvenile records.
- **Program Benchmark 2:** A background check is required for family child care providers, their substitutes and assistants, family members over 12 years of age and exempt providers receiving subsidies.
- **Program Benchmark 3:** Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or a general equivalency diploma (GED) and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.
- **Program Benchmark 4:** Family child care providers are required to have 40 hours of comprehensive initial training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, learning activities, business practices, health and safety, CPR and first aid.
- **Program Benchmark 5:** Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, learning activities, business practices, health and safety, CPR and first aid.
- **Program Benchmark 6:** Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight domains: motor development, language and literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages and materials that are culturally sensitive.
- **Program Benchmark 7:** Family child care providers are required to offer learning opportunities in eight domains: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce mathematical concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills and limit television.
- **Program Benchmark 8:** Family child care providers are required to address 10 health areas including handwashing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering, home sanitation and week-end/evening care.
- **Program Benchmark 9:** Family child care providers are required to address 10 safety areas including Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) prevention, guidance/discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, water hazards, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor play surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. Corporal punishment is prohibited.

- **Program Benchmark 10:** Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the used of substitutes, and give written policies to parents.

- **Program Benchmark 11:** Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.

The following table shows the program requirements score, percent of score and rankings for all the states in rank order.

Program Requirement Scores, in Descending Rank Order			
State	Program Score	Program Percent	Rank
Washington	90	82%	1
Delaware	83	75%	2
Oklahoma	82	75%	3
Department Of Defense	80	73%	4
Massachusetts	80	73%	4
Kansas	77	70%	6
Alabama	75	68%	7
Maryland	73	66%	8
Colorado	72	65%	9
District Of Columbia	72	65%	9
Georgia	62	56%	11
Florida	53	48%	12
Connecticut	52	47%	13
Rhode Island	52	47%	13
Minnesota	49	45%	15
New York	47	43%	16
Hawaii	46	42%	17
Illinois	46	42%	17
North Carolina	46	42%	17
Wisconsin	46	42%	17
New Hampshire	42	38%	21
Alaska	41	37%	22
Kentucky	41	37%	22
Maine	40	36%	24
Arizona	36	33%	25
New Mexico	36	33%	25
California	35	32%	27
Missouri	34	31%	28

Program Requirement Scores, in Descending Rank Order

State	Program Score	Program Percent	Rank
Tennessee	34	31%	28
North Dakota	32	29%	30
Vermont	32	29%	30
Wyoming	32	29%	30
Arkansas	30	27%	33
Oregon	30	27%	33
Utah	30	27%	33
Nevada	26	24%	36
Michigan**	0 (85)	0% (77%)	37
West Virginia**	0 (51)	0% (46%)	38
Montana**	0 (47)	0% (43%)	39
Pennsylvania**	0 (31)	0% (28%)	40
Iowa**	0 (25)	0% (23%)	41
Nebraska**	0 (23)	0% (21%)	42
South Carolina**	0 (17)	0% (15%)	43
Texas*	0 (15)	0% (14%)	44
Idaho^	0	0%	52
Indiana^	0	0%	52
Louisiana^	0	0%	52
Mississippi^	0	0%	52
New Jersey^	0	0%	52
Ohio^	0	0%	52
South Dakota^	0	0%	52
Virginia^	0	0%	52

** States receive a zero if they do not inspect family child care homes prior to issuing a license. The score these states otherwise would have received is listed to the right of the zero. They are ranked at the bottom of the chart beginning with rank 37 in order reflecting their total points. For example, Michigan ranked 37th because Michigan would have received the highest total of points (85) among states scoring zero.

^States receive a zero if the number of children that a provider can care for without a license exceeds six.

The following table shows the program requirements score, percent of score and rankings for all the states in alphabetical order.

Program Requirement Scores, in Alphabetical Order			
State	Program Score	Program Percent	Rank
Alabama	75	68%	7
Alaska	41	37%	22
Arizona	36	33%	25
Arkansas	30	27%	33
California	35	32%	27
Colorado	72	65%	9
Connecticut	52	47%	13
Delaware	83	75%	2
Department Of Defense	80	73%	4
District Of Columbia	72	65%	9
Florida	53	48%	12
Georgia	62	56%	11
Hawaii	46	42%	17
Idaho^	0	0%	52
Illinois	46	42%	17
Indiana^	0	0%	52
Iowa**	0 (25)	0% (23%)	41
Kansas	77	70%	6
Kentucky	41	37%	22
Louisiana^	0	0%	52
Maine	40	36%	24
Maryland	73	66%	8
Massachusetts	80	73%	4
Michigan**	0 (85)	0% (77%)	37
Minnesota	49	45%	15
Mississippi^	0	0%	52
Missouri	34	31%	28
Montana**	0 (47)	0% (43%)	39
Nebraska**	0 (23)	0% (21%)	42
Nevada	26	24%	36

Program Requirement Scores, in Alphabetical Order

State	Program Score	Program Percent	Rank
New Hampshire	42	38%	21
New Jersey^	0	0%	52
New Mexico	36	33%	25
New York	47	43%	16
North Carolina	46	42%	17
North Dakota	32	29%	30
Ohio^	0	0%	52
Oklahoma	82	75%	3
Oregon	30	27%	33
Pennsylvania**	0 (31)	0% (28%)	40
Rhode Island	52	47%	13
South Carolina**	0 (17)	0% (15%)	43
South Dakota^	0	0%	52
Tennessee	34	31%	28
Texas*	0 (15)	0% (14%)	44
Utah	30	27%	33
Vermont	32	29%	30
Virginia^	0	0%	52
Washington	90	82%	1
West Virginia**	0 (51)	0% (46%)	38
Wisconsin	46	42%	17
Wyoming	32	29%	30

** States receive a zero if they do not inspect family child care homes prior to issuing a license. The score these states otherwise would have received is listed to the right of the zero.

^States receive a zero if the number of children that a provider can care for without a license exceeds six.

Oversight Benchmarks

Ranking of States

Small family child care home oversight

- **Oversight Benchmark 1:** All family child care providers who care for unrelated children for a fee are licensed. (This benchmark is used to adjust all scores based on the number of children in care before licensing begins.)
- **Oversight Benchmark 2:** Inspect before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.
- **Oversight Benchmark 3:** Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.
- **Oversight Benchmark 4:** Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.

- **Oversight Benchmark 5:** Inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.

Oversight Benchmarks 3, 4 and 5 were added in 2012 to be consistent with NACCRRRA's approach for scoring of state child care center regulations and oversight as reflected in the biennial report, *We Can Do Better*

The following table shows the oversight score, percent of score and rankings for all the states in rank order.

Oversight Scores, in Rank Order			
State	Oversight Score	Percentage	Rank
Oklahoma	38	95%	1
Kansas	34	85%	2
Maryland	29	73%	3
Washington	29	73%	3
Florida	28	70%	5
Department Of Defense	27	68%	6
Delaware	26	65%	7
New York	25	63%	8
District Of Columbia	24	60%	9
Colorado	23	58%	10
North Carolina	23	58%	10
Alabama	22	55%	12
Georgia	22	55%	12
Arkansas	18	45%	14
Hawaii	18	45%	14

Oversight Scores, in Rank Order			
State	Oversight Score	Percentage	Rank
Kentucky	18	45%	14
Utah	18	45%	14
Arizona	17	43%	18
New Hampshire	17	43%	18
Wyoming	17	43%	18
Missouri	16	40%	21
Tennessee	15	38%	22
Connecticut	14	35%	23
Illinois	14	35%	23
New Mexico	14	35%	23
North Dakota	14	35%	23
Wisconsin	13	33%	27
Minnesota	11	28%	28
Nevada	8	20%	29
Rhode Island	8	20%	29
Vermont	8	20%	29
Alaska	7	18%	32
Maine	6	15%	33
Massachusetts	6	15%	33
Oregon	6	15%	33
California	3	8%	36
Michigan	0 (22)	0% (55%)	37
South Carolina	0 (22)	0% (55%)	37
Montana	0 (18)	0% (45%)	39
West Virginia	0 (13)	0% (33%)	40
Nebraska	0 (11)	0% (28%)	41
Pennsylvania	0 (10)	0% (25%)	42
Iowa	0 (6)	0% (15%)	43
Texas	0 (0)	0% (0%)	44
Idaho	0	0%	52
Indiana	0	0%	52
Louisiana	0	0%	52
Mississippi	0	0%	52
New Jersey	0	0%	52
Ohio	0	0%	52
South Dakota	0	0%	52
Virginia	0	0%	52

** States receive a zero if they do not inspect family child care homes prior to issuing a license. The score these states otherwise would have received is listed to the right of the zero. They are ranked at the bottom of the chart beginning with rank 37 in order reflecting their total points. For example, South Carolina ranked 37th because South Carolina would have received the highest total of points (26) among states scoring zero.

^States receive a zero if the number of children that a provider can care for without a license exceeds six.

The following table shows the oversight score, percent of score and rankings for all the states in alphabetical order.

Oversight Scores, in Alphabetical Order			
State	Oversight Score	Percentage	Rank
Alabama	22	55%	12
Alaska	7	18%	32
Arizona	17	43%	18
Arkansas	18	45%	14
California	3	8%	36
Colorado	23	58%	10
Connecticut	14	35%	23
Delaware	26	65%	7
Department Of Defense	27	68%	6
District Of Columbia	24	60%	9
Florida	28	70%	5
Georgia	22	55%	12
Hawaii	18	45%	14
Idaho	0	0%	52
Illinois	14	35%	23
Indiana	0	0%	52
Iowa	0 (6)	0% (15%)	43
Kansas	34	85%	2
Kentucky	18	45%	14
Louisiana	0	0%	52
Maine	6	15%	33
Maryland	29	73%	3
Massachusetts	6	15%	33
Michigan	0 (22)	0% (55%)	37
Minnesota	11	28%	28
Mississippi	0	0%	52
Missouri	16	40%	21
Montana	0 (18)	0% (45%)	39
Nebraska	0 (11)	0% (28%)	41
Nevada	8	20%	29
New Hampshire	17	43%	18
New Jersey	0	0%	52
New Mexico	14	35%	23
New York	25	63%	8

Oversight Scores, in Alphabetical Order			
State	Oversight Score	Percentage	Rank
North Carolina	23	58%	10
North Dakota	14	35%	23
Ohio	0	0%	52
Oklahoma	38	95%	1
Oregon	6	15%	33
Pennsylvania	0 (10)	0% (25%)	42
Rhode Island	8	20%	29
South Carolina	0 (22)	0% (55%)	37
South Dakota	0	0%	52
Tennessee	15	38%	22
Texas	0 (0)	0% (0%)	44
Utah	18	45%	14
Vermont	8	20%	29
Virginia	0	0%	52
Washington	29	73%	3
West Virginia	0 (13)	0% (33%)	40
Wisconsin	13	33%	27
Wyoming	17	43%	18
<p>** States receive a zero if they do not inspect family child care homes prior to issuing a license. The score these states otherwise would have received is listed to the right of the zero.</p> <p>^States receive a zero if the number of children that a provider can care for without a license exceeds six.</p>			

Conclusion and Recommendations

Parents, child care providers and state and federal policymakers share responsibility for the safety and well-being of children while they are in child care settings.

Basic state requirements as well as oversight form the foundation necessary to protect children and promote their healthy development while in child care. The benchmarks selected by NACCRRA represent basic, minimal criteria. Yet, the average score is 69 points out of a possible score of 150.

As this report shows, state licensing requirements vary greatly, and few really set policies to keep children safe and in a setting to promote their development.

Child Care Licensing Requirements

Child care licensing should provide minimum protections for children. *At a minimum, it should do no harm.*

With what research shows about brain development, that 80 percent of brain development occurs between birth and age 3 (and 90 percent by age 5), child care is an early learning program. It is critical that child care settings promote the healthy development of children.

Program requirements are important to ensure a quality setting. While there are a variety of factors that affect a child care setting, one of the most important to the quality of care and interaction with children is the training of a child care provider.

Put simply, training makes a difference in the quality of care. Quality child care matters for the safety and development of children. Yet, training requirements vary greatly among the states ranging from no training to comprehensive.

The array of benchmarks NACCRRA selected are key to quality settings. Program *and* oversight benchmarks were selected because licensing requirements are ineffective unless there are oversight systems in place to ensure that the program requirements are carried out.

Weak oversight undermines strong standards since compliance is not effectively monitored. As this report shows, state oversight varies greatly.

Progress Has Been Made

Two states with the biggest changes since this report was published in 2010 were Kansas and Georgia.

In 2010, enactment of “Lexie’s Law” in *Kansas*, resulted in many improvements to the state’s approach to family child care homes, including a new requirement that all small family child care home providers be licensed. In addition, the measure required an inspection before the state grants a license. Additional changes went into effect in February 2012, that significantly strengthened protections for children in child care.

As a result, *Kansas* scored 111 points in this report and is ranked third among all states compared to the state's score of zero in the 2010 report.

Georgia, made significant changes in its approach to better protect children in child care and promote their healthy development.

Just below the top 10, ***Georgia* ranked 11th, with a score of 84 out of 150 in 2012 compared to scoring zero in 2010.** One of the biggest changes in *Georgia* was a requirement to inspect family child care homes before licensing.

In several key areas, states are continuing to make progress since this report was published in 2010.

Colorado, Oklahoma and Washington improved their background check requirements.

Georgia, Illinois, Kansas and Washington strengthened their minimum education requirements for child care providers.

Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Carolina and Washington strengthened their initial training requirements. Many of these changes were related to CPR and first aid.

Georgia, Kansas, New Mexico and Oregon strengthened their inspection policies.

Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota and Utah strengthened their health and safety policies. Many of these changes related to SIDS prevention.

More Progress is Needed

Despite improvements, the average score of 69 shows that much more is needed to protect the safety of children in child care and to promote their healthy development.

Given that \$10 billion in government money is spent on child care, and nearly one-third of children (about 500,000) receiving subsidies are in a family child care home setting, federal and state

governments should know whether or not children are in quality child care.

Nearly 340,000 children whose care is paid for through CCDBG are in unlicensed care, of which 132,000 are in settings with either no background check or no fingerprint check.⁶⁴ A background check without a fingerprint check is ineffective. Individuals can circumvent the screening process by using an alias as several state audits have shown.

- 40 states require a background check for subsidy receipt by exempt providers. However, in 16 of those states, no fingerprint check is required.

Currently, the quality of care, the condition of the settings these children are in, and any potential harm providers (who are paid with taxpayer dollars) may pose to the children is largely unknown.

At a minimum, federal funds should not be used to pay convicted felons, including sex offenders, to care for children or allow them to live in a family child care home where they may have unsupervised access to the children.

The federal law, which gives guidance to the states in establishing their licensing systems and protections for children, CCDBG, does not require a background check for child care providers, minimum training requirements, or even inspections to see the condition of the settings for which federal funds are used.

States are making progress. But, their approaches to child care vary greatly. As shown in this report, the scores of the top 10 states range from 120 to 86.

One state (*Oklahoma*) earned a “B,” three states (*Washington, Kansas and Delaware*) and DoD earned a “C,” four states earned a “D,” (*Maryland, Alabama, the District of Columbia and Colorado*) and the 10th state – *Massachusetts*, with a score of 86, at 57 percent, earned an “F” (as do all remaining states).

It is good news to see progress, but too many children are left to chance.

NACCRRA recommends that Congress:

Reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) in the 112th Congress so that states accepting federal funds for child care are accountable for creating, implementing and monitoring child care that protects the safety of children and promotes their healthy development.

Protect children's safety

- Require comprehensive background checks for child care providers and those receiving subsidies to care for unrelated children. Substitutes and aides, other adults in the home, and teenagers (all who may have unsupervised access to children) should be included in any background check requirements.
- Require states accepting federal funds for child care to prohibit the use of CCDBG or TANF funds to pay convicted felons to provide child care.
- Require states accepting federal funds for child care to share suspension and violation information with Child Care Resource and Referral agencies so that agencies do not make referrals to programs that may be unsafe.

Promote accountability

- Require states accepting federal funds for child care to provide an evidence-based rationale for each category of license-exempt care and to disclose such information on the Internet.
- Require states accepting federal funds for child care to conduct quarterly inspections of licensed child care programs.
- Include a specific set-aside for licensing-related activities to promote the safety and healthy development of children.
- Require the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to review state Child Care and Development Fund biennial plans and impose penalties when state plans fail to meet minimum protections for children, including ineffective state monitoring practices.

Promote quality child care

- Set clear expectations about what quality means and establish a floor for what is minimally acceptable.
- Increase the CCDBG quality set-aside to 12 percent, gradually increasing it to 25 percent, on par with Head Start.
- Require states accepting federal funds for child care to require 40 hours of *initial* training.
- Require states accepting federal funds for child care to require 24 hours of *annual* training to reinforce initial training and to stay current on health and safety requirements and policies.

NACCRRA Recommends States:

Strengthen state requirements and oversight to ensure family child care homes are safe and promote the healthy development of children.

Protect children's safety

- Require comprehensive background checks for child care providers and those receiving subsidies to care for unrelated children. Substitutes and aides, other adults in the home, and teenagers (all who may have unsupervised access to children) should be included in any background check requirements.
- Require family child care providers to keep certification in first aid and CPR.
- Require family child care providers to follow the 10 recommended basic health practices and the 10 recommended basic safety practices.
- Require all paid family child care providers caring for one or more unrelated children on a regular basis (like a business) to be licensed.
- Inspect licensed homes at least quarterly.
- Share suspension and violation information with CCR&Rs so that agencies do not make referrals to programs that may not be safe.

Promote accountability

- Conduct quarterly inspections to ensure compliance with state requirements. At least some of these inspections should be unannounced.
- Ensure adequate oversight by reducing licensing staff caseloads to no more than 50:1 to improve accountability for meeting state requirements.
- Post routine inspection reports and substantiated complaints on the Internet.

Promote quality child care

- Limit the number of children one family child care provider can care for to six. Limit the number of infants and toddlers to no more than two when older children are present or three when no older children are present.
- Require family child care providers to have at least a high school degree and be working toward a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.
- Require family child care providers to have a minimum of 40 hours of *initial* training, including training about child development, discipline and guidance, recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect, working with families, learning activities, elements of child care quality, licensing requirements, fire safety, basic health and safety practices.
- Require family child care providers to have a minimum of 24 hours of *annual* training in child development, discipline and guidance, recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect, working with families, learning activities, elements of child care quality, licensing requirements, fire safety, basic health and safety practices.
- Ensure child care providers have access to a continuum of professional development opportunities, beginning with quality community-based training programs that are linked to career ladders and tied to higher education.

- Create and expand more online training opportunities, training to better address children with special needs and training in languages other than English.
- Require family child care providers to offer activities that address eight developmental domains.
- Require family child care providers to encourage parent involvement, to communicate with parents on a daily or ongoing basis, to allow parental visits at any time their children are present, to have contracts and share written policies, and to notify parents when a substitute will be caring for their child.
- Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.







Appendix A







Small Family Child Care Home Requirements and Oversight In Individual States and The Department Of Defense








2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Alabama

97 Total Score	65% Total Percentage	7 Overall Rank	Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care Home
Family Child Care Costs (2010)			Number of children in care when regulation begins: 1
For an Infant: \$ 4,650			Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? All children counted
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 4,750			Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Alabama

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Family child care homes caring for one or more unrelated children are required to be licensed. ■ Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced. ■ Family child care providers are required to undergo a background check that includes using fingerprints for state and federal records check and a check of the child abuse and neglect registry, but a check of the sex offender registry is not required. ■ Providers are required to complete 24 hours of annual training, including CPR and first aid. ■ Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address universal health precautions. ■ Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address door locks/safety gates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Inspections of family child care homes are only conducted once every two years. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online. ■ In offering activities, providers are only required to address active play and limit TV. ■ Providers are allowed to care for three infants and toddlers when older children are present.
Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increase inspections of family child care homes to at least once a year. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online. ■ Include a check of the sex offender registry in background checks. ■ Require providers to address all of the recommended developmental domains in offering activities. ■ Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present. 	

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Alaska






48 Total Score	32% Total Percentage	28 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 7,500
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 6,250

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Child Care Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 5
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Alaska

Strengths

- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 50 programs or fewer.
- Providers are required to undergo a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and federal criminal records and checks of child abuse and neglect registry, juvenile records and sex offender registry.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.

Weaknesses

- Inspections of family child care homes are only conducted once every two years.
- Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree.
- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are required to complete only four hours of Initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only 12 hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are allowed to care for three infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Increase inspections of family child care homes to at least once a year.
- Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Arizona






53 Total Score	35% Total Percentage	23 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 6,550
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 6,200

Type of care reviewed: Certified Family Child Care Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 5
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Arizona

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected twice a year.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Providers must offer activities addressing all developmental domains.
- Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address universal health precautions.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.

Weaknesses

- Background checks do not require a check of either the sex offender registry or the child abuse registry.
- Providers are required to complete only seven hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only 12 hours of annual training.
- Providers are allowed to care for six infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Background checks should include a check of the sex offender and child abuse registries.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Arkansas






48 Total Score	32% Total Percentage	28 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 4,500
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 4,100

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Child Care Family Homes
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 6
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? Yes
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Arkansas

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected three times per year.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address universal health precautions.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.

Weaknesses

- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints.
- Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are only required to complete eight hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are only required to offer toys/materials for motor development and offer books for all ages.
- Providers are allowed to care for three infants and toddlers when older children are present. A single provider may care for up to ten preschool-age children at one time.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. Include a check of the sex offender registry in background checks.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Require providers to offer toys and materials in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in California






38 Total Score	25% Total Percentage	34 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 6,850
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 6,600

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: Second Unrelated Family
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in California

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced. ■ Family child care providers are required to undergo a background check that includes using fingerprints for state and federal records check and a check of the child abuse and neglect registry, but a check of the sex offender registry is not required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Inspections of family child care homes are only conducted once every five years. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 257 programs. ■ Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online. ■ Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED. ■ Providers are required to complete only 15 hours of initial training including CPR and first aid. ■ Providers are required to complete only four hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid. ■ Providers are not required to address any developmental domains in toys/materials offered. ■ When offering activities, providers are only required to offer creative activities ■ Requirements do not address the following health standards: hand washing, universal health precautions, administration of medication, diapering/toileting and weekend/evening care. ■ Requirements do not address the following safety standards: electrical hazards and outdoor playground surfaces. ■ Providers are allowed to care for three infants and toddlers when older children are present.
Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed. ■ Increase inspections of family child care homes to at least once a year. ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors. ■ Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online. ■ Include a check of the sex offender registry in background checks. ■ Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years. ■ Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid. ■ Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal. ■ Require providers to offer toys and materials in all of the recommended developmental domains. ■ Require providers to address all of the recommended developmental domains in learning activities. ■ Require providers to address all recommended health standards. ■ Require providers to address all recommended safety standards. ■ Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present. 	

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Colorado






95 Total Score	63% Total Percentage	9 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 8,400
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 7,750

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: Second Unrelated Family
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Colorado

Strengths

- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- A comprehensive background check is required for all providers, including the use of fingerprints to check state and federal criminal history databases, and a check of the child abuse and sex offender registries.
- Providers must offer toys/materials addressing all developmental domains.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Providers must meet requirements regarding parent involvement, daily/frequent communication with parents and allowing unannounced parent access.
- Providers are permitted to care for no more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Weaknesses

- Inspections of family child care homes are only conducted once every two years.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 140 programs.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are only required to have 15 hours of initial training, plus CPR and first aid.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Increase inspections of family child care homes to at least once a year.
- Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Increase the initial training requirements to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid certification.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Connecticut






66 Total Score	44% Total Percentage	15 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 9,400
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 8,950

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 1
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? All children counted
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Connecticut

Strengths

- Family child care homes caring for one or more unrelated children are required to be licensed.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Family child care providers are required to undergo a background check that includes using fingerprints for state and federal records check and a check of the child abuse and neglect registry, but a check of the sex offender registry is not required.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Providers are permitted to care for no more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Weaknesses

- Annual inspections of family child care homes are not required. Inspectors are required to inspect at least one-third of family child care homes each year.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 332 programs.
- Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are only required to have initial and annual training in first aid. No other initial or annual training is required.
- Providers are only required to offer toys/materials in motor development and materials that are culturally sensitive.
- When offering activities, providers are only required to offer dramatic play and active play.
- Requirements do not address the following safety standards: SIDS prevention, crib safety and outdoor playground surfaces.

Recommendations

- Increase inspections of family child care homes to at least once a year.
- Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.
- Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Include a check of the sex offender registry in background checks.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Require providers to have comprehensive initial training, including first aid and CPR certification.
- Establish a requirement for 24 hours of annual training for providers.
- Require providers to offer toys and materials in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Require providers to offer learning activities in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Require providers to address all recommended safety standards.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Delaware






109 Total Score	73% Total Percentage	4 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 6,950
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 6,150

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care Home - Level I
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 1
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? All children counted
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Delaware

Strengths

- Family child care homes caring for one or more unrelated children are required to be licensed.
- All family child care homes are inspected once a year. There is also an annual fire inspection.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Family child care providers are required to undergo a background check that includes using fingerprints for state and federal records check and a check of the child abuse and neglect registry, but a check of the sex offender registry is not required.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Providers must offer toys/materials addressing all developmental domains.
- Providers must offer activities addressing all developmental domains.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.

Weaknesses

- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 150 programs.
- Providers are required to complete only three hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only 12 hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are allowed to care for three infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.
- Include a check of the sex offender registry in background checks.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.





Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.







Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.






Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Department of Defense

107 Total Score	71% Total Percentage	5 Overall Rank	Type of care reviewed: Family Child Care Home
Family Child Care Costs (2010)			Number of children in care when regulation begins: 1
For an Infant: \$ --*see notes			Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? All children counted
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ --*see notes			Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Department of Defense

Strengths

- Family child care homes caring for one or more unrelated children are required to be licensed.
- All family child care homes are inspected at least four times per year, including health, safety or fire inspections.
- Routine monitoring inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 50 programs or fewer.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Everyone present in a family child care home is required to undergo background checks.
- Providers are required to complete 38 hours of comprehensive initial training within the first six months of providing care.
- Providers are required to complete 24 hours or more of annual training.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Providers must meet requirements regarding parent involvement, daily/frequent communication with parents and allowing unannounced parent access.
- Providers are permitted to care for no more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Weaknesses

- Unannounced complaint inspections are not required.
- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.
- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without a state fingerprint check and do not require a check of the sex offender registry.
- Providers are only required to offer toys/materials for motor development and to have materials that are culturally sensitive.
- Requirements do not address the following health standards: universal health precautions and weekend/evening care.

Recommendations

- Require complaint inspections be unannounced.
- Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.
- Background checks should require the use of state fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history and a check of the sex offender registry.
- Require providers to offer toys and materials in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Require providers to address all recommended health standards.

DoD Notes: DoD does not license programs, but operates a system of child care programs on its military installations. These programs are required to follow program regulations and oversight established in DoD Instructions and regulations developed by each military service branch. A draft of the revised DoD Instruction for Child Development Programs is under final legal review in preparation for posting in the Federal Register sometime in 2012.

*Cost of Care: For DoD, cost of care is based on family income.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in District of Columbia






96 Total Score	64% Total Percentage	8 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 11,700
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 8,050

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Child Development Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 1
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? All children counted
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in District of Columbia

Strengths

- Family child care homes caring for one or more unrelated children are required to be licensed.
- All family child care homes are inspected twice a year. There is also a fire inspection and a lead inspection.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Providers must offer toys/materials addressing all developmental domains.
- Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address door locks/safety gates.
- Providers are permitted to care for no more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Weaknesses

- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.
- Background checks do not require a check of either the sex offender registry or the child abuse registry.
- Providers are required to complete only nine hours of initial training. No topics other than CPR and first aid are required.
- Providers are required to complete only 15 hours of annual training including CPR and first aid.

Recommendations

- Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.
- Background checks should include a check of the sex offender and child abuse registries.
- Require providers to complete 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including first aid and CPR certification.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.





Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.







Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.






Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Florida

81 Total Score	54% Total Percentage	12 Overall Rank	Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Day Care
Family Child Care Costs (2010)			Number of children in care when regulation begins: Second Unrelated Family
For an Infant: \$ 7,150			Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 6,050			Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Florida

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected twice a year.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Everyone present in a family child care home is required to undergo background checks.
- Providers are required to undergo a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and federal criminal records and checks of child abuse and neglect registry, sex offender registry and juvenile records.
- Providers are required to complete 35 hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.

Weaknesses

- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are required to complete only 10 hours of annual training including CPR and first aid.
- Providers are not required to offer toys/materials in any developmental domains.
- When offering activities, providers are not required to address any developmental domains.
- Providers are allowed to care for three infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Require providers to offer toys and materials in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Require providers to offer learning activities in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Georgia






84 Total Score	56% Total Percentage	11 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 5,400
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 5,000

Type of care reviewed: Registered Family Day Care Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 3
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Georgia

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected twice a year.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Providers are required to have a CDA credential in addition to a high school degree or GED.
- Providers must offer activities addressing all developmental domains.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.

Weaknesses

- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 120 programs.
- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks do not require a check of either the sex offender registry or the child abuse registry.
- Providers are required to complete only 20 hours of initial training including CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only 10 hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are allowed to care for three infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.
- Include a check of the sex offender registry and the child abuse registry when conducting background checks.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

State Note: Georgia rules now require a preregistration inspection be conducted by the Child Care Services Division prior to the issuance of a Family Day Care Home registration certificate. This change moved Georgia from a score of 0 in 2010 to an overall rank of 11 in 2012.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Hawaii






64 Total Score	43% Total Percentage	16 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 7,350
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 7,300

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 3
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Hawaii

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected once a year.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- A comprehensive background check is required for all providers, including the use of fingerprints to check state and federal criminal history databases, a check of the child abuse registry and a check of the sex offender registry.
- Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address universal health precautions.
- Providers are permitted to care for no more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Weaknesses

- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- No initial training is required except CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only four hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid.
- Requirements do not address the following safety standards: SIDS prevention, crib safety and door locks/safety gates.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Require providers to have comprehensive initial training, including first aid and CPR certification.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Require providers to address all recommended safety standards.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.

Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Idaho

0 Total Score	0% Total Percentage	52 Overall Rank
State received a zero because they do not require licensing for small family child care homes.		

Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 5,400
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 5,050

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Group Daycare Facility
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 7
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? Yes
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	<input type="radio"/>
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	<input type="radio"/>
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	<input type="radio"/>

Program Standards	Meets
1. 1A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	<input type="radio"/>
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	<input type="radio"/>
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	<input type="radio"/>
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	<input type="radio"/>
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	<input type="radio"/>
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	<input type="radio"/>
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	<input type="radio"/>
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	<input type="radio"/>



Fully Meets



Substantially Meets



Partially Meets



Marginally Meets



Does not meet

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Idaho

Strengths

- None, as Idaho does not license family child care providers until they are caring for seven or more children.

Weaknesses

- Providers are allowed to care for up to six children for pay without being licensed.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Require everyone present in a family child care home to undergo a comprehensive background check.
- Introduce inspections for family child care homes at least annually.
- Require family child care providers to complete comprehensive initial training and at least 24 hours annual training.
- Require family child care providers to address all recommended health and safety standards.

State Note: Idaho does not license family child care until seven children are in the home. Since Idaho does not require licensing for small family child care homes, the state received a zero. However, Idaho requires a background check for family day care providers caring for four or more children. The state does not require a fingerprint check of either state or federal records, but does require a name-based check as well as a check of the state child abuse registry, the Idaho Adult Protection Registry and the Idaho Sex Offender Registry. Owners, operators and staff, and others over age 13 who have unsupervised access, as well as others 13 and older who are regularly on the premises are subject to a background check.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Illinois






60 Total Score	40% Total Percentage	17 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 7,150
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 6,600

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Day Care Homes
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 4
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? Yes
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Illinois

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected once a year.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- A comprehensive background check is required for all providers, including the use of fingerprints to check state and federal criminal history databases, a check of the child abuse registry and a check of the sex offender registry.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address outdoor playground surfaces.

Weaknesses

- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.
- Providers are required to complete only 15 hours of initial training including CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only 15 hours of annual training including CPR and first aid.
- Providers are allowed to care for three infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.

Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Indiana

0 Total Score	0% Total Percentage	52 Overall Rank
State received a zero because they do not require licensing for small family child care homes.		
Family Child Care Costs (2010)		
For an Infant: \$ 5,900		
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 4,950		

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Child Care Home - Class I
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 6
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	<input type="radio"/>
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	<input type="radio"/>
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	<input type="radio"/>

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	<input type="radio"/>
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	<input type="radio"/>
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	<input type="radio"/>
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	<input type="radio"/>
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	<input type="radio"/>
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	<input type="radio"/>
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	<input type="radio"/>
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	<input type="radio"/>



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Indiana

Strengths

- None, as family child care providers in Indiana may care for up to six children for pay without being licensed.

Weaknesses

- Family child care providers may care for up to six children for pay without being licensed.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Require everyone present in a family child care home to undergo a comprehensive background check.
- Introduce inspections for family child care homes at least annually.
- Require family child care providers to complete comprehensive initial training and at least 24 hours annual training.
- Require family child care providers to address all recommended health and safety standards.

This report reviewed Class I Licensed Child Care Homes in Indiana. A provider caring for seven or more children, including the provider's own children, is required to have a Class I license. Since this is the lowest level of required licensing, Indiana received a zero because it does not require licensing for small family child care homes

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.





Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.












Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Iowa

0 (31) Total Score	0% (21%) Total Percentage	43 Overall Rank	Type of care reviewed: Registered Child Development Homes
State received a zero due to not requiring an inspection before licensing.			Number of children in care when regulation begins: 6
			Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? Yes
			Inspection before being licensed? No

Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 6,500
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 6,250

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets		Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.			7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.			8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.			9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.			10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.			11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.				



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Iowa

Strengths

- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.

Weaknesses

- The state does not inspect the family child care home before licensing.
- Inspections of family child care homes are only conducted once every two years.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 408 programs.
- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.
- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints.
- Providers are required to complete only five hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only 12 hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are not required to offer toys/materials in any developmental domains.
- In planning activities, providers are only required to plan learning activities and offer active play.
- Requirements do not address the following health standards: hand washing, universal health precautions, diapering/toileting and weekend/evening care.
- Requirements do not address the following safety standards: crib safety, outdoor playground surfaces and transportation.
- Providers are allowed to care for four infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Conduct an initial inspection before licensing.
- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Increase inspections of family child care homes to at least once a year.
- Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.
- Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.
- Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Require providers to offer toys and materials in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Require providers to offer learning activities in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Require providers to address all recommended health standards.
- Require providers to address all recommended safety standards.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Kansas






111 Total Score	74% Total Percentage	3 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 6,250
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 5,450

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Day Care Homes
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 1
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? All children counted
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Kansas

Strengths

- All family child care homes caring for one or more unrelated children are required to be licensed.
- All family child care homes are inspected once a year.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Providers are required to have comprehensive initial training, including first aid and CPR certification.
- Providers must offer toys/materials in all developmental domains.
- Providers must offer activities addressing all developmental domains.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.

Weaknesses

- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints and do not require a check of the sex offender registry.
- Providers are required to complete only 15 hours of initial training including CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only five hours of annual training including CPR and first aid.
- Providers are allowed to care for three infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history and include a check of the sex offender registry for background checks.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

State Note: Lexie's Law, signed in 2010, requires all family child care providers caring for one or more unrelated children to be licensed. That, along with significant changes effective in 2012, moved Kansas from a state scoring a zero in 2010 into the top ten in 2012.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Kentucky






59 Total Score	39% Total Percentage	20 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 6,250
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 5,200

Type of care reviewed: Certified Family Child-Care Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 4
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Kentucky

Strengths

- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Providers are required to have comprehensive initial training, including first aid and CPR certification.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.

Weaknesses

- Inspections of family child care homes are only conducted once every two years.
- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints.
- Providers are required to complete only six hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only nine hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are only required to offer books for all ages in toys/materials offered.
- Providers are allowed to care for four infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Increase inspections of family child care homes to at least once a year.
- Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Require providers to offer toys and materials in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.

Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Louisiana

0 Total Score	0% Total Percentage	52 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ NR
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 4,350

Type of care reviewed: Child Day Care Center Class A
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 7
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	<input type="radio"/>
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	<input type="radio"/>
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	<input type="radio"/>

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	<input type="radio"/>
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	<input type="radio"/>
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	<input type="radio"/>
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	<input type="radio"/>
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	<input type="radio"/>
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	<input type="radio"/>
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	<input type="radio"/>
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	<input type="radio"/>



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Louisiana

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ None, as Louisiana does not require licensing for small family child care providers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Allows providers to care for up to six children for pay without being licensed.
Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.■ Require everyone present in a family child care home to undergo a comprehensive background check.■ Introduce inspections for family child care homes at least annually.■ Require family child care providers to complete comprehensive initial training and at least 24 hours annual training.■ Require family child care providers to address all recommended health and safety standards.	

State Note: Regulations for large family child care providers, i.e., those caring for seven or more children, are the same as those for child care centers. Licensing is voluntary for small family child care providers. Since Louisiana does not require licensing for small family child care homes, the state received a zero.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Maine






46 Total Score	31% Total Percentage	31 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 6,700
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ NR

Type of care reviewed: Certified Family Child Care Program
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 3
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Maine

Strengths

- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.

Weaknesses

- Inspections of family child care homes are only conducted once every two years.
- Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree.
- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.
- The state does not require license exempt providers receiving subsidies to undergo a background check.
- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints and do not require a check of the sex offender registry.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are required to complete only six hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only 12 hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid.
- Requirements do not address the following health standards: exclusion of ill children and universal health precautions.
- Providers are allowed to care for three infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Increase inspections of family child care homes to at least once a year.
- Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.
- Conduct a background check on all family child care providers, including license-exempt providers receiving subsidy.
- Background checks should include the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history and a check of the sex offender registry.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Require providers to address all recommended health standards.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.





Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.







Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.






Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Maryland

102 Total Score	68% Total Percentage	6 Overall Rank	Type of care reviewed: Registered Family Child Care Homes
Family Child Care Costs (2010)			Number of children in care when regulation begins: 1
For an Infant: \$ 8,850			Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? All children counted
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 7,450			Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Maryland

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All family child care homes caring for one or more unrelated children are required to be licensed. ■ All family child care homes are inspected once a year, including health, safety or fire inspections. ■ Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced. ■ Family child care providers are required to undergo a background check that includes using fingerprints for state and federal records check and a check of the child abuse and neglect registry. A check of the sex offender registry is not required in regulation. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Family child care providers are required to have 38 hours of initial training including emergency preparation, CPR and first aid. ■ Forty-five hours of preservice training is required for those approved for care in homes with four children under the age of 2 years. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address outdoor playground surfaces. ■ Providers are permitted to care for no more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 115 programs. ■ Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED. ■ Providers are required to complete only 12 hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid.
Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors. ■ Include a check of the sex offender registry in background checks in regulation as well as in practice. ■ Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years. ■ Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal. 	

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Massachusetts






86 Total Score	57% Total Percentage	10 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 12,100
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 11,300

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 1
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? ALL CHILDREN COUNTED
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Massachusetts

Strengths

- All family child care homes caring for one or more unrelated children are required to be licensed.
- All family child care homes are inspected once a year, including health, safety or fire inspections.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Providers are required to have comprehensive initial training, including first aid and CPR certification.
- Providers must offer toys/materials addressing all developmental domains.
- Providers must offer learning activities in all developmental domains except limiting TV.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.

Weaknesses

- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 340 programs.
- Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree.
- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.
- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints and do not require a check of the sex offender registry.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are required to complete only 11 hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only 10 hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are allowed to care for three infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.
- Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.
- Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history and include a check of the sex offender registry in background checks.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.





Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.







Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.






2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Michigan

0 (107) Total Score	0% (71%) Total Percentage	37 Overall Rank
State received a zero due to not requiring an inspection before licensing.		
Family Child Care Costs (2010)		
For an Infant: \$ 6,450		
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 6,250		

Type of care reviewed: Registered Family Child Care Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 1
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? ALL CHILDREN COUNTED
Inspection before being licensed? No

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Michigan

Strengths

- All family child care homes caring for one or more unrelated children are required to be licensed.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a master's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Family child care providers are required to undergo a background check that includes using fingerprints for state and federal records check and a check of the child abuse and neglect registry, but a check of the sex offender registry is not required.
- Providers must offer toys/materials addressing all developmental domains, except culturally sensitive materials.
- Providers must offer activities addressing all developmental domains.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Providers are permitted to care for no more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Weaknesses

- The state does not inspect the family child care home before licensing.
- Inspections of family child care homes are only conducted for 10 percent of homes each year.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 168 programs.
- Providers are required to complete only six hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only 10 hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid.

Recommendations

- Conduct an initial inspection before licensing.
- Increase inspections of family child care homes to at least once a year for all family child care homes.
- Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.
- Include a check of the sex offender registry in background checks.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Minnesota






60 Total Score	40% Total Percentage	17 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 7,350
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 6,600

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Children Family Day Care Homes
Number of children in care when regulation begins: Second Unrelated Family
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Minnesota

Strengths

- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address outdoor playground surfaces.

Weaknesses

- Inspections of family child care homes are only conducted once every two years.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 150 programs.
- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.
- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints and do not require a check of the sex offender registry.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are required to complete only 10 hours of initial training including CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only eight hours of annual training including CPR.
- Requirements do not address the following health standards: universal health precautions and weekend/evening care.
- Providers are allowed to care for three infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Increase inspections of family child care homes to at least once a year.
- Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.
- Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.
- Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history and include a check of the sex offender registry in background checks.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.

Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Mississippi

0 Total Score	0% Total Percentage	52 Overall Rank
State received a zero because they do not require licensing for small family child care homes.		
Family Child Care Costs (2010)		
For an Infant: \$ 3,850		
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 3,600		

Type of care reviewed: Child Care Facilities for 12 or Fewer Children in the Operator's Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 6
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	<input type="radio"/>
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	<input type="radio"/>
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	<input type="radio"/>

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	<input type="radio"/>
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	<input type="radio"/>
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	<input type="radio"/>
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	<input type="radio"/>
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	<input type="radio"/>
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	<input type="radio"/>
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	<input type="radio"/>
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	<input type="radio"/>



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Mississippi

Strengths

- None, as Mississippi does not license family child care providers unless they are caring for seven or more children.

Weaknesses

- Allows family child care providers to care for up to six children for pay without being licensed.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Require everyone present in a family child care home to undergo a comprehensive background check.
- Introduce inspections for family child care homes at least annually.
- Require family child care providers to complete comprehensive initial training and at least 24 hours annual training.
- Require family child care providers to address all recommended health and safety standards.

State Note: Mississippi does not license family child care homes until a provider cares for six preschool-age children, plus the provider's own children. Since Mississippi does not require licensing for small family child care homes, the state received a zero.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD). States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Missouri






50 Total Score	33% Total Percentage	24 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 5,500
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 4,800

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care Homes
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 5
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Missouri

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected at least four times per year, including fire inspections.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address universal health precautions.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Providers are permitted to care for no more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Weaknesses

- Complaint reports are not available online.
- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Only requires initial training in CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only 12 hours of annual training including CPR and first aid.
- Providers are only required to address active play and plan learning activities.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Make complaint reports available online.
- Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Require providers to address all of the recommended developmental domains in learning activities.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.





Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.







Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.






2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Montana

0 (65) Total Score	0% (43%) Total Percentage	38 Overall Rank
State received a zero due to not requiring an inspection before licensing.		
Family Child Care Costs (2010)		
For an Infant: \$ 7,000		
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 6,500		

Type of care reviewed: Registered Family Day Care Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 3
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? No

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Montana

Strengths

- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address universal health precautions.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.

Weaknesses

- The state does not inspect the family child care home before licensing.
- Inspections of family child care homes are only conducted for 20 percent of registered homes each year, plus an annual fire inspection.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 106 programs.
- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints and do not require a check of the sex offender registry.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are required to complete only 4.5 hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only eight hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are allowed to care for three infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Conduct an initial inspection before licensing.
- Increase licensing inspections of family child care homes to at least once a year for all family child care homes.
- Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.
- Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history and include a check of the sex offender registry in background checks.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.





Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.







Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.






Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Nebraska

0 (34) Total Score	0% (23%) Total Percentage	42 Overall Rank	Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care Home I
State received a zero due to not requiring an inspection before licensing.			Number of children in care when regulation begins: 4
Family Child Care Costs (2010)			Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
For an Infant: \$ 6,300			Inspection before being licensed? No
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 5,650			

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Nebraska

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected once a year.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address universal health precautions.

Weaknesses

- The state does not inspect the family child care home before licensing.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 180 programs.
- Inspection reports are not available online.
- Background checks only include a check of the child abuse registry. They do not require a state criminal history check, or the use of fingerprints to check state and federal databases, or a check of the sex offender registry.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are only required to complete initial training in CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only 12 hours of annual training including CPR and first aid.
- Providers are not required to offer toys/materials in any developmental domains.
- Providers are not required offer activities in any developmental domains.
- Requirements do not address the following safety standards: SIDS prevention, outdoor playground surfaces and door locks/safety gates.
- Providers are allowed to care for four infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Conduct an initial inspection before licensing.
- Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.
- Make inspection reports available online.
- Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history and include a check of the sex offender registry.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Require providers to complete 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including first aid and CPR certification.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Require providers to offer toys and materials in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Require providers to offer learning activities in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Require providers to address all recommended safety standards.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Nevada






34 Total Score	23% Total Percentage	36 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 8,000
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ NR

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 5
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Nevada

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected three times per year, including fire inspections.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Family child care providers are required to undergo a background check that includes using fingerprints for state and federal records check and a check of the child abuse and neglect registry, but a check of the sex offender registry is not required.

Weaknesses

- Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree.
- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.
- The state does not require license-exempt providers receiving subsidies to undergo a background check.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are required to complete only 12 hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only 15 hours of annual training including CPR and first aid.
- Providers are only required to offer toys/materials for motor development and culturally sensitive materials.
- Requirements do not address the following health standards: toxic substances and weekend/evening care.
- Requirements do not address the following safety standards: electrical hazards and door locks/safety gates.
- Providers are allowed to care for four infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.
- Conduct a background check on all family child care providers, including license-exempt providers receiving subsidy.
- Include a check of the sex offender registry in background checks.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Require providers to offer toys and materials in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Require providers to address all recommended health standards.
- Require providers to address all recommended safety standards.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.





Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.







Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.






Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in New Hampshire

59 Total Score	39% Total Percentage	20 Overall Rank	Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care Home
Family Child Care Costs (2010)			Number of children in care when regulation begins: 4
For an Infant: \$ 8,200			Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 7,500			Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in New Hampshire

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected once a year.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Family child care providers are required to undergo a background check that includes using fingerprints for state and federal records check and a check of the child abuse and neglect registry, but a check of the sex offender registry is not required.
- Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address universal health precautions.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Providers are permitted to care for no more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Weaknesses

- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 116 programs.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED if they are 21 years or older.
- Providers are only required to complete five hours of initial training, plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are not required to address any specific developmental domains in toys/materials offered.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.
- Include a check of the sex offender registry in background checks.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Require providers to offer toys and materials in all of the recommended developmental domains.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.

Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in New Jersey

0 Total Score	0% Total Percentage	52 Overall Rank
State received a zero because they do not require licensing for small family child care homes.		

Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 8,200
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 7,050

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Child Care Centers
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 6
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	<input type="radio"/>
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	<input type="radio"/>
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	<input type="radio"/>

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	<input type="radio"/>
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	<input type="radio"/>
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	<input type="radio"/>
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	<input type="radio"/>
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	<input type="radio"/>
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	<input type="radio"/>
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	<input type="radio"/>
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	<input type="radio"/>



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in New Jersey

Strengths

- None, as New Jersey does not require licensing for small family child care home providers.

Weaknesses

- The state does not require licensing for small family child care homes, but permits voluntary registration.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Require everyone present in a family child care home to undergo a comprehensive background check.
- Introduce inspections for family child care homes at least annually.
- Require family child care providers to complete comprehensive initial training and at least 24 hours annual training.
- Require family child care providers to address all recommended health and safety standards.

State Note: New Jersey does not require mandatory registration/licensing for small family child care homes. However, family care providers that register voluntarily are required to comply with comprehensive requirements in order to receive a Certificate of Registration. The lowest level of required licensure is for licensed child care centers; which includes providers caring for six or more children. Since New Jersey does not require licensing for small family child care homes, the state received no score. However many providers choose to be voluntarily registered. Providers who choose to voluntarily register for family child care must meet standards and have child abuse background checks.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in New Mexico






50 Total Score	33% Total Percentage	24 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 6,150
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 5,600

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care Homes
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 5
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in New Mexico

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected three times per year, including fire inspections.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 50 programs or fewer.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Family child care providers are required to undergo a background check that includes using fingerprints for state and federal records check and a check of the child abuse and neglect registry, but a check of the sex offender registry is not required.
- Providers are required to have 45 hours of comprehensive initial training, including first aid and CPR certification, within the first six months of licensing.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Providers are permitted to care for no more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Weaknesses

- Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are required to complete only 12 hours of annual training.
- Providers are not required to offer toys/materials in any specific developmental domains.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Include a check of the sex offender registry in background checks.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Require providers to offer toys and materials in all of the recommended developmental domains.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.





Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.







Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.






Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in New York

72 Total Score	48% Total Percentage	13 Overall Rank	Type of care reviewed: Registered Family Day Care Home
Family Child Care Costs (2010)			Number of children in care when regulation begins: 3
For an Infant: \$ 10,200			Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 9,450			Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in New York

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected at least four times per year, including health, safety or fire inspections.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address outdoor playground surfaces.
- Providers must meet requirements regarding parent involvement, daily/frequent communication with parents and allowing unannounced parent access.
- Providers are permitted to care for no more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Weaknesses

- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without a federal fingerprint check and do not require a check of the sex offender registry.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are required to complete only 15 hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only 15 hours of annual training including CPR and first aid.
- Providers are only required to plan learning activities and provide for active play in activities offered.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Require the use of federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history and include a check of the sex offender registry.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Require providers to address all of the recommended developmental domains in learning activities.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.

Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in North Carolina

69 Total Score	46% Total Percentage	14 Overall Rank	Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care Home
Family Child Care Costs (2010)			Number of children in care when regulation begins: 3
For an Infant: \$ 6,600			Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 5,750			Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in North Carolina

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected once a year.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address crib safety.

Weaknesses

- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without a federal fingerprint check and do not require a check of the child abuse registry.
- Providers are only required to complete two hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only 12 hours of annual training including CPR and first aid.
- Providers are allowed to care for five infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Require the use of federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history and include a check of the child abuse registry.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Require providers to address all recommended safety standards.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in North Dakota






46 Total Score	31% Total Percentage	31 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 6,100
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 5,750

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 6
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? Yes
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in North Dakota

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected twice a year.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 50 programs or fewer.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address outdoor playground surfaces.

Weaknesses

- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.
- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without a state fingerprint check.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are required to complete only 12 hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only nine hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are not required to offer toys/materials in any specific developmental domains.
- Providers are allowed to care for three infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.
- Require the use of state fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Require providers to offer toys and materials in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.

Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Ohio

0 Total Score	0% Total Percentage	52 Overall Rank
State received a zero because they do not require licensing for small family child care homes.		
Family Child Care Costs (2010)		
For an Infant: \$ 6,500		
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 5,800		

Type of care reviewed: Child Care Type A Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 7
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? Yes
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	<input type="radio"/>
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	<input type="radio"/>
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	<input type="radio"/>

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	<input type="radio"/>
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	<input type="radio"/>
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	<input type="radio"/>
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	<input type="radio"/>
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	<input type="radio"/>
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	<input type="radio"/>
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	<input type="radio"/>
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	<input type="radio"/>



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Ohio

Strengths

- None, as Ohio does not license family child care providers unless they are caring for eight or more children.

Weaknesses

- Allows providers to care for up to six children for pay without being licensed.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Require everyone present in a family child care home to undergo a comprehensive background check.
- Introduce inspections for family child care homes at least annually.
- Require family child care providers to complete comprehensive initial training and at least 24 hours annual training.
- Require family child care providers to address all recommended health and safety standards.

State Note: This report reviewed Child Care Type A Homes, which must be licensed by the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services when a provider cares for seven or more children. Since this is the lowest level of required state-level licensing, Ohio received a zero because it does not require licensing for small family child care homes. Ohio does have Type B Homes, which provide care for up to six children. These homes are inspected and "certified" by county staff.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Oklahoma






120 Total Score	80% Total Percentage	1 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 5,750
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 4,950

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care Homes
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 1
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? ALL CHILDREN COUNTED
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Oklahoma

Strengths

- All family child care homes caring for one or more unrelated children are required to be licensed.
- All family child care homes are inspected three times per year.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 50 programs or fewer.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Providers must offer toys/materials addressing all developmental domains.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Providers are permitted to care for no more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Weaknesses

- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints.
- Providers are required to complete only four hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only 12 hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid.

Recommendations

- Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Oregon






36 Total Score	24% Total Percentage	35 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 6,000
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 5,400

Type of care reviewed: Registered Family Child Care Homes
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 4
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Oregon

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected once a year.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address universal health precautions.
- Providers are permitted to care for no more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Weaknesses

- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 285 programs.
- Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree.
- Inspection reports are not available online.
- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without a state fingerprint check.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are required to complete only seven hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only four hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are not required to offer toys/materials in any specific developmental domains.
- Requirements do not address the following safety standards: crib safety and outdoor playground surfaces.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.
- Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Make inspection reports available online.
- Require the use of state fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Require providers to offer toys and materials in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Require providers to address all recommended safety standards.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.





Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.







Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.






2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Pennsylvania

0 (41) Total Score	0% (27%) Total Percentage	40 Overall Rank
State received a zero due to not requiring an inspection before licensing.		
Family Child Care Costs (2010)		
For an Infant: \$ 8,050		
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 5,700		

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Day Care Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 4
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? No

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Pennsylvania

Strengths

- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address universal health precautions.
- Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address door locks/safety gates.

Weaknesses

- The state does not inspect the family child care home before licensing.
- Inspections of family child care homes are only conducted for a random sample of 15 percent of registered homes each year.
- Unannounced monitoring inspections are not required.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 102 programs.
- Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree.
- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without a state fingerprint check and do not require a check of the sex offender registry.
- Providers are only required to have initial training in first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only six hours of annual training plus first aid.
- Providers are allowed to care for five infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Conduct an initial inspection before licensing.
- Increase inspections of family child care homes to at least once a year for all family child care homes.
- Require that some monitoring inspections be unannounced.
- Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.
- Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Require the use of state fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history and include a check of the sex offender registry.
- Require providers to have comprehensive initial training, including first aid and CPR certification.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.





Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.







Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.






Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Rhode Island

60 Total Score	40% Total Percentage	17 Overall Rank	Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care Home
Family Child Care Costs (2010)			Number of children in care when regulation begins: 4
For an Infant: \$ 8,700			Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 8,300			Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Rhode Island

Strengths

- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Family child care providers are required to undergo a background check that includes using fingerprints for state and federal records check and a check of the child abuse and neglect registry, but a check of the sex offender registry is not required.
- Providers are required to have 36 hours of comprehensive initial training, plus first aid and CPR certification.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Providers must meet requirements regarding parent involvement, daily/frequent communication with parents and allowing unannounced parent access.
- Providers are permitted to care for no more than two infants and toddlers.

Weaknesses

- Licensing inspections of family child care homes are only conducted once every two years. By Rhode Island General Laws, fire safety inspections for family child care homes are completed every year.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 200 programs.
- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.
- Providers are required to complete only 12 hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid.
- Requirements do not address the following health standards: universal health precautions and weekend/evening care.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Increase licensing inspections of family child care homes to at least once a year.
- Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.
- Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.
- Include a check of the sex offender registry in background checks.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.





Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.







Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.






2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in South Carolina

0 (39) Total Score	0% (26%) Total Percentage	41 Overall Rank
State received a zero due to not requiring an inspection before licensing.		
Family Child Care Costs (2010)		
For an Infant: \$ 4,550		
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 4,100		

Type of care reviewed: Registered Family Child Care Homes
Number of children in care when regulation begins: Second Unrelated Family
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? No

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in South Carolina

Strengths

- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 50 programs or fewer.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- A comprehensive background check is required for all providers, including the use of fingerprints to check state and federal criminal history databases, and a check of the child abuse registry and a check of the sex offender registry.

Weaknesses

- The state does not inspect the family child care home before licensing/registering.
- Routine monitoring inspections of family child care homes are not required.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are required to complete only two hours of training every year.
- Providers are not required to address any specific developmental domains in toys/materials or learning activities.
- Requirements do not address any of the recommended health or safety standards.
- Requirements do not prohibit corporal punishment.
- Requirements do not specifically address parent involvement, parent access and daily/frequent communication with parents.
- Providers are allowed to care for up to six infants and toddlers without being licensed.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Conduct an initial inspection before licensing.
- Conduct routine monitoring inspections of family child care homes at least once a year.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Require providers to complete 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including first aid and CPR certification.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Require providers to offer toys and materials in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Require providers to address all of the recommended developmental domains in learning activities.
- Require providers to address all recommended health and safety standards.
- Prohibit corporal punishment under all circumstances.
- Require parent involvement and daily/frequent communication with parents and allow parents unannounced access to the program when their children are present.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

State note: Family child care providers in South Carolina are required to be registered when they care for children from two or more families (2-6 children). They can choose to be licensed. For registered homes, the *Suggested Standards - Guidelines for Operators of Family Child Care Homes Subject to Registration* are voluntary, so these standards were not scored for this report. Registered family child care providers are required to have comprehensive background checks and two hours of training every year. Providers are required to be licensed when they care for seven or more children.

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.

Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in South Dakota

0 Total Score	0% Total Percentage	52 Overall Rank
State received a zero because they do not require licensing for small family child care homes.		

Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 5,050
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 4,900

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Group Family Child Care Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 13
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? Yes
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	<input type="radio"/>
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	<input type="radio"/>
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	<input type="radio"/>

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	<input type="radio"/>
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	<input type="radio"/>
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	<input type="radio"/>
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	<input type="radio"/>
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	<input type="radio"/>
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	<input type="radio"/>
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	<input type="radio"/>
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	<input type="radio"/>



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in South Dakota

Strengths

- None, as South Dakota does require licensing for small family child care providers.

Weaknesses

- Does not license small family child care homes. Family child care providers may care for up to 12 children without being licensed.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Require everyone present in a family child care home to undergo a comprehensive background check.
- Introduce inspections for family child care homes at least annually.
- Require family child care providers to complete comprehensive initial training and at least 24 hours annual training.
- Require providers to address all recommended health and safety standards.
- Require family child care providers to address all recommended health and safety standards.

State Note: In South Dakota, a family child care provider is allowed up to 12 children without being licensed. Since South Dakota does not require licensing for small family child care homes unless they receive public funds, the state received a zero. Providers who choose to voluntarily register with the Department of Social Services must meet standards and have background checks.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.





Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.







Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.






Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Tennessee

49 Total Score	33% Total Percentage	26 Overall Rank	Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care Home
Family Child Care Costs (2010)			Number of children in care when regulation begins: 5
For an Infant: \$ 4,750			Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 4,050			Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Tennessee

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected at least four times per year, including health, safety or fire inspections.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 50 programs or fewer.
- Providers are required to undergo a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and federal criminal records and checks of child abuse and neglect registry, juvenile records and sex offender registry.
- Providers must offer activities addressing all developmental domains.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.

Weaknesses

- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.
- The state does not require license-exempt providers receiving subsidies to undergo a background check.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are required to complete only 12 hours of initial training including CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only nine hours of annual training including CPR and first aid.
- Requirements do not address the following safety standards: crib safety and door locks/safety gates.
- Providers are allowed to care for four infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.
- Conduct a background check on all family child care providers, including license-exempt providers receiving subsidy.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Require providers to address all recommended safety standards.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.





Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.












Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.

Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Texas

0 (15) Total Score	0% (10%) Total Percentage	44 Overall Rank	Type of care reviewed: Listed Family Homes
State received a zero due to not requiring an inspection before licensing.			Number of children in care when regulation begins: 1
Family Child Care Costs (2010)			Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? ALL CHILDREN COUNTED
For an Infant: \$ 6,450			Inspection before being licensed? No
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 5,350			

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets		Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.			7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.			8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.			9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.			10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.			11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.				



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Texas

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ None, as Texas does not require listed providers to meet any requirements except a state criminal history check and limits on group size. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The state does not inspect the family child care home before listing or conduct any monitoring inspections. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online for listed homes. ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks do not use fingerprints and do not require a check of either the sex offender registry or the child abuse registry. ■ Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED. ■ Providers are not required to complete any initial or annual training. ■ Providers are not required to address any developmental domains in toys/ materials or learning activities. ■ Requirements do not address any of the recommended health or safety standards. ■ Requirements do not prohibit corporal punishment. ■ Providers are allowed to care for three infants and toddlers when older children are present.
Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed. ■ Conduct an initial inspection before licensing. ■ Introduce inspections for family child care homes at least annually. ■ Require everyone present in a family child care home to undergo a comprehensive background check. ■ Require family child care providers to complete comprehensive initial training and at least 24 hours annual training. ■ Require providers to address all recommended health and safety standards. 	

State Note: In Texas, the lowest category of regulation required for all providers is "listed care." All providers caring for one to three children are required to be listed with the Department of Family and Protective Services and to undergo a background check. Providers are required to be licensed when they care for four or more children.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.





Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.







Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.






Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Utah

48 Total Score	32% Total Percentage	28 Overall Rank	Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care Homes
Family Child Care Costs (2010)			Number of children in care when regulation begins: 5
For an Infant: \$ 5,750			Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 5,000			Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Utah

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected twice a year, including health, safety or fire inspections.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Everyone present in a family child care home is required to undergo background checks.
- Providers are required to complete 20 hours of annual training, including CPR and first aid.
- Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address weekend/evening care.
- Safety standards address all 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address door locks/safety gates.
- Providers are permitted to care for no more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Weaknesses

- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints and do not require a check of the sex offender registry.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are only required to complete three hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are not required to address any specific developmental domains in toys/materials offered.
- Providers are required to plan learning activities but specific developmental domains are not addressed.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history and include a check of the sex offender registry.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Require providers to offer toys and materials in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Require providers to address all of the recommended developmental domains in learning activities.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.





Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.







Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.






Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Vermont

40 Total Score	27% Total Percentage	33 Overall Rank	Type of care reviewed: Registered Child Care Homes
Family Child Care Costs (2010)			Number of children in care when regulation begins: Third Unrelated Family
For an Infant: \$ 7,200			Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 6,700			Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Vermont

Strengths

- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address weekend/evening care.
- Providers are permitted to care for no more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Weaknesses

- Routine monitoring inspections of family child care homes are not required.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 275 programs.
- Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree.
- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints and do not require a check of the sex offender registry.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Does not require any initial training beyond a 2-hour orientation.
- Providers are required to complete only six hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are only required to offer toys/materials for motor development.
- Requirements do not address the following safety standards: SIDS prevention, electrical hazards, outdoor playground surfaces and door locks/safety gates.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Conduct inspections of family child care homes at least once a year.
- Require some monitoring and complaint inspections to be unannounced.
- Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.
- Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history and include a check of the sex offender registry.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Require providers to offer toys and materials in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Require providers to address all recommended safety standards.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.

Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Virginia

0 Total Score	0% Total Percentage	52 Overall Rank
State received a zero because they do not require licensing for small family child care homes.		

Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 6,800
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 5,650

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Day Homes
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 6
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	<input type="radio"/>
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	<input type="radio"/>
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	<input type="radio"/>

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	<input type="radio"/>
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	<input type="radio"/>
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	<input type="radio"/>
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	<input type="radio"/>
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	<input type="radio"/>
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	<input type="radio"/>
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	<input type="radio"/>
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	<input type="radio"/>



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Virginia

Strengths

- None, as Virginia does not license family child care providers unless they are caring for seven or more children.

Weaknesses

- Allows providers to care for up to six children for pay without being licensed.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Require everyone present in a family child care home to undergo a comprehensive background check.
- Introduce inspections for family child care homes at least annually.
- Require family child care providers to complete comprehensive initial training and at least 24 hours annual training.
- Require family child care providers to address all recommended health and safety standards.

State Note: Virginia does not license family child care homes until a provider cares for seven preschool-age children, including the provider's own children. Since Virginia does not require licensing for small family child care homes, the state received a zero.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Washington






119 Total Score	79% Total Percentage	2 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 8,650
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 7,200

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Home Child Care
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 1
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? ALL CHILDREN COUNTED
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Washington

Strengths

- All family child care homes caring for one or more unrelated children are required to be licensed.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- A comprehensive background check is required for all providers, including the use of fingerprints to check state and federal criminal history databases, and a check of the child abuse and sex offender registries.
- Providers must offer toys/materials addressing all developmental domains.
- Providers must offer activities addressing all developmental domains.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Providers must meet requirements regarding parent involvement, daily/frequent communication with parents and allowing unannounced parent access.

Weaknesses

- Routine monitoring inspections of family child care homes are only conducted once every eighteen months.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 97 programs.
- Providers are required to complete only 10 hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are allowed to care for 3 infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Increase inspections of family child care homes to at least once a year.
- Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.





Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.







Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.






2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in West Virginia

0 (64) Total Score	0% (43%) Total Percentage	39 Overall Rank
State received a zero due to not requiring an inspection before licensing.		
Family Child Care Costs (2010)		
For an Infant: \$ 5,350		
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 5,150		

Type of care reviewed: Registered Family Child Care Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 4
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? Yes
Inspection before being licensed? No

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in West Virginia

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected once a year.
- Routine monitoring inspections are unannounced.
- A comprehensive background check is required for all providers, including the use of fingerprints to check state and federal criminal history databases, and a check of the child abuse and sex offender registries.
- Providers must offer activities addressing all developmental domains.
- Providers must offer toys/materials addressing all developmental domains, except culturally sensitive materials.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Providers are permitted to care for no more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Weaknesses

- The state does not inspect the family child care home before licensing.
- Unannounced complaint inspections are not required.
- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Only requires two hours of initial training in health and safety. CPR and first aid are not required.
- Providers are required to complete only eight hours of annual training. No topics are required, not even CPR and first aid.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Conduct an initial inspection before licensing.
- Require complaint inspections to be unannounced.
- Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Require providers to complete 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including first aid and CPR certification.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Wisconsin






59 Total Score	39% Total Percentage	20 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 8,550
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 7,650

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care Centers
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 4
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Wisconsin

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected once a year.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Everyone present in a family child care home is required to undergo background checks.
- Initial training requirements include 3 college credits in early childhood education.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.

Weaknesses

- Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree.
- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints.
- Providers are required to complete only 15 hours of annual training plus CPR; first aid is not required.
- Providers are allowed to care for four infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.





Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.







2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Wyoming






49 Total Score	33% Total Percentage	26 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 6,800
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 6,250

Type of care reviewed: Licensed Family Child Care Home
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 3
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	



2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Wyoming

Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected at least four times per year.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.

Weaknesses

- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.
- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints.
- Providers are required to complete only six hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are not required to address any specific developmental domains in toys/materials offered.
- Providers are not required to address any specific developmental domains in activities offered.
- Providers are allowed to care for four infants and toddlers when older children are present. A single provider may care for up to ten preschool-age children at one time.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.
- Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Require providers to offer toys and materials in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Require providers to address all of the recommended developmental domains in learning activities.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.

Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.

Appendix B:

State Tables for Criteria Scored

Program Benchmark 1: Type of Background Check

A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child

Elements of a Comprehensive Criminal Records Check						
State	Federal Fingerprints	State Fingerprints	Criminal Record Check	Child Abuse Registry	Sex Offender Registry	Juvenile Record Check
Alabama	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Alaska	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Arkansas*	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
California	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Connecticut	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Department Of Defense	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
District Of Columbia	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Florida	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Hawaii	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Idaho #	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Illinois	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Indiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Iowa	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Kansas	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Kentucky	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Louisiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Elements of a Comprehensive Criminal Records Check

State	Federal Fingerprints	State Fingerprints	Criminal Record Check	Child Abuse Registry	Sex Offender Registry	Juvenile Record Check
Maine	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Maryland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Massachusetts	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Michigan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Minnesota	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Mississippi	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Missouri*	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Montana*	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Nebraska	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Nevada	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
New Jersey	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
New York	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
North Carolina*	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
North Dakota	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Ohio	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oklahoma**	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Oregon	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Pennsylvania	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
South Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
South Dakota	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Texas*	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Utah*	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Vermont	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Virginia	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Washington	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
West Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Wisconsin*	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

NA: Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined above by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.

*Seven states (Arkansas, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, Texas, Utah and Wisconsin) require a check of fingerprints against state and/or federal records if the applicant has not lived in the state continuously for a designated number of years.

**Oklahoma passed legislation requiring a fingerprint to check FBI records in 2011, but it is not required until 2013.

Idaho does not license family child care until seven children are in the home. However, Idaho requires a background check for family day care providers caring for four or more children. The state does not require a fingerprint check of either state or federal records, but does require a name-based check as well as a check of the state child abuse registry, the Idaho adult protection registry and the Idaho sex offender registry. Owners, operators and staff, others over age 13 who have unsupervised access as well as others 13 and older who are regularly at the premises are subject to a background check.

Number of States Requiring Specific Element of Background Checks	
Requirement	Number of States
Federal Fingerprints	26*
State Fingerprints	24
Criminal Record Check	43*
Child Abuse Registries	39*
Sex Offender Registries	18
Juvenile Record Check	11*
*Includes DoD	

Program Benchmark 2: To Whom Background Checks Apply

A background check is required for family child care providers, their substitutes and assistants, other adults in the home, teenagers in the home and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.

Who is Required to Have a Background Check					
State	Family Child Care Providers	Adolescents Living in the Home - Starting age	Family Members over Age 18	Substitutes and Assistants	Exempt Providers Receiving Subsidies
Alabama	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alaska	Yes	15	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arizona	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas*	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
California	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colorado	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	16	Yes	Yes	Yes
Delaware	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Department of Defense	Yes	12	Yes	Yes	-
District of Columbia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Florida	Yes	12	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Idaho #	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Illinois	Yes	13	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Iowa	Yes	14	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kansas	Yes	11	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maine	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Maryland	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	15	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	13	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Missouri*	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Montana*	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nebraska	Yes	13	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nevada	Yes	16	Yes	Yes	No
New Hampshire	Yes	17	Yes	Yes	Yes

Who is Required to Have a Background Check

State	Family Child Care Providers	Adolescents Living in the Home - Starting age	Family Members over Age 18	Substitutes and Assistants	Exempt Providers Receiving Subsidies
New Jersey	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
New Mexico	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
New York	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Carolina*	Yes	16	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	Yes	13	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ohio	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oklahoma	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oregon	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rhode Island	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Carolina	Yes	15	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Dakota	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tennessee	Yes	15	Yes	Yes	No
Texas*	Yes	14	Yes	Yes	Yes
Utah*	Yes	12	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vermont	Yes	15	Yes	Yes	Yes
Virginia	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Washington	Yes	16	Yes	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin*	Yes	12	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

NA: Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined above by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.

*Seven states (Arkansas, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, Texas, Utah and Wisconsin) require a check of fingerprints if the applicant has not lived in the state continuously for a designated number of years.

Idaho does not license family child care until seven children are in the home. However, Idaho requires a background check for family day care providers caring for four or more children. The state does not require a fingerprint check of either state or federal records, but does require a name-based check as well as a check of the state child abuse registry, the Idaho adult protection registry and the Idaho sex offender registry. Owners, operators and staff, others over age 13 who have unsupervised access as well as others 13 and older who are regularly at the premises are subject to a background check.

Note: Of the 40 states that require a background check of unlicensed providers for subsidy receipt, 16 do not require a fingerprint check. Massachusetts, Ohio, Oklahoma and Wisconsin do not provide taxpayer funds to pay for unlicensed care. Off-base assistance paid for by DoD is in licensed settings.

Who States Require to Have a Background Check	
Requirement	Number of States
Family child care providers	44*
Substitutes or assistants	44*
Juvenile family members age 12 and older	5*
Family members at least age 18	44*
License-exempt providers	40
<p>*Includes DoD</p> <p>Note: Of the 40 states that require a background check of unlicensed providers for subsidy receipt, 16 do not require a fingerprint check. Massachusetts, Ohio, Oklahoma and Wisconsin do not provide taxpayer funds to pay for unlicensed care. Off-installation assistance paid for by DoD is in licensed settings.</p>	

Program Benchmark 3: Minimum Education

Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.

Minimum Education Requirements for Family Child Care Home Providers			
State	Minimum Education Requirement	State	Minimum Education Requirement
Alabama	High School Diploma or GED	Missouri	Less Than High School Diploma or GED
Alaska	Less Than High School Diploma or GED	Montana	Less Than High School Diploma or GED
Arizona	High School Diploma or GED	Nebraska	Less Than High School Diploma or GED
Arkansas	Less Than High School Diploma or GED	Nevada	Less Than High School Diploma or GED
California	Less Than High School Diploma or GED	New Hampshire	Less Than High School Diploma or GED
Colorado	Less Than High School Diploma or GED	New Jersey	NA
Connecticut	Less Than High School Diploma or GED	New Mexico	Less Than High School Diploma or GED
Delaware	High School Diploma or GED	New York	Less Than High School Diploma or GED
Department Of Defense	High School Diploma or GED	North Carolina	High School Diploma or GED
District Of Columbia	High School Diploma or GED	North Dakota	Less Than High School Diploma or GED
Florida	Less Than High School Diploma or GED	Ohio	NA
Georgia	CDA	Oklahoma	High School Diploma or GED
Hawaii	Less Than High School Diploma or GED	Oregon	Less Than High School Diploma or GED
Idaho	NA	Pennsylvania	High School Diploma or GED
Illinois	High School Diploma or GED	Rhode Island	High School Diploma or GED
Indiana	NA	South Carolina	Less Than High School Diploma or GED
Iowa	High School Diploma or GED	South Dakota	NA
Kansas	High School Diploma or GED	Tennessee	Less Than High School Diploma or GED

Minimum Education Requirements for Family Child Care Home Providers

State	Minimum Education Requirement	State	Minimum Education Requirement
Kentucky	High School Diploma or GED	Texas	Less Than High School Diploma or GED
Louisiana	NA	Utah	Less Than High School Diploma or GED
Maine	Less Than High School Diploma or GED	Vermont	Less Than High School Diploma or GED
Maryland	Less Than High School Diploma or GED	Virginia	NA
Massachusetts	Less Than High School Diploma or GED	Washington	High School Diploma or GED
Michigan	High School Diploma or GED	West Virginia	Less Than High School Diploma or GED
Minnesota	Less Than High School Diploma or GED	Wisconsin	3-credit college course in ECE
Mississippi	NA	Wyoming	High School Diploma or GED

NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined above by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.

Family Child Care Home Provider Qualifications By State

Level of Education Required	Number of States
CDA	1
Credits/clock hours in ECE beyond HS	1
High School Diploma or GED	16*
Less Than High School Diploma or GED	26

*Includes DoD

NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined above by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.

Program Benchmark 4: Minimum Initial Training

Family child care providers are required to have 40 hours of initial training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, learning activities, business practices, health and safety, CPR and first aid.

Hours of Initial Training Required for Family Child Care Providers

State	Hours Required	CPR Required	First-Aid Required	CPR/First Aid Counted?	Adjusted Hours*
Alabama	24	Yes	Yes	No	32
Alaska	4	Yes	Yes	No	12
Arizona	7	Yes	Yes	No	15
Arkansas	8	Yes	Yes	No	16
California	15	Yes	Yes	Yes	15
Colorado	15	Yes	Yes	No	23
Connecticut	0	No	Yes	No	2
Delaware	6	Yes	Yes	No	14
Department Of Defense	38	Yes	Yes	Yes	38
District Of Columbia	10	Yes	Yes	Yes	10
Florida	35	Yes	Yes	No	43
Georgia	20	Yes	Yes	Yes	20
Hawaii	0	Yes	Yes	No	8
Idaho	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Illinois	15	Yes	Yes	Yes	15
Indiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Iowa	5	Yes	Yes	No	13
Kansas	15	Yes	Yes	Yes	15
Kentucky	6	Yes	Yes	No	14
Louisiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maine	6	Yes	Yes	No	14
Maryland	30	Yes	Yes	No	38
Massachusetts	11	Yes	Yes	No	19
Michigan	6	Yes	Yes	No	14
Minnesota	10	Yes	Yes	Yes	10
Mississippi	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Missouri	0	Yes	Yes	No	8
Montana	4.5	Yes	Yes	No	12.5
Nebraska	1	Yes	Yes	No	9
Nevada	12	Yes	Yes	No	20
New Hampshire	5	Yes	Yes	No	13

Hours of Initial Training Required for Family Child Care Providers

State	Hours Required	CPR Required	First-Aid Required	CPR/First Aid Counted?	Adjusted Hours*
New Jersey	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
New Mexico	45	Yes	Yes	No	53
New York	15	Yes	Yes	No	23
North Carolina	2	Yes	Yes	No	10
North Dakota	12	Yes	Yes	No	20
Ohio	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oklahoma	4	Yes	Yes	No	12
Oregon	7	Yes	Yes	No	15
Pennsylvania	0	No	Yes	No	2
Rhode Island	36	Yes	Yes	No	44
South Carolina	0.5	No	No	No	0.5
South Dakota	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tennessee	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	12
Texas	0	No	No	No	0
Utah	3	Yes	Yes	No	11
Vermont	2	No	No	No	2
Virginia	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Washington	20	Yes	Yes	No	28
West Virginia	2	No	No	No	2
Wisconsin	45	No	No	No	45
Wyoming	6	Yes	Yes	No	14

*Hours of initial training include additional hours added for CPR and first aid where these topics are required by states.

NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined above by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.

Initial Training Number of States by Required Hours	
Hours of Initial Training Required*	Number of States
0	1
1 to 10	11
11 to 20	22
21 to 30	3
31 to 39	3*
40 and higher	4
<p>*Includes DoD.</p> <p>Note: Hours of initial training include additional hours added for CPR and first aid where these topics are required by states.</p> <p>NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined above by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.</p>	

**Initial Training Requirements for Small Family Child Care Home Providers
By State By Category**

State	Child Development	Child Guidance	Child Abuse Prevention	Business Practices	Learning Activities	Health and Safety	CPR	First Aid
Alabama	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alaska	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
California	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colorado	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Delaware	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Department Of Defense	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
District Of Columbia	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Florida	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Idaho	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Illinois	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Iowa	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maine	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Maryland	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Missouri	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Montana	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nebraska	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Nevada	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Jersey	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New York	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Carolina	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ohio	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

**Initial Training Requirements for Small Family Child Care Home Providers
By State By Category**

State	Child Development	Child Guidance	Child Abuse Prevention	Business Practices	Learning Activities	Health and Safety	CPR	First Aid
Oklahoma	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oregon	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Carolina	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
South Dakota	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tennessee	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Texas	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Utah	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vermont	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Virginia	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Washington	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Wyoming	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more

Number of States that Require Initial Training on Specific Topics

Topics Required in Initial Training	Number of States
Child Development	22*
Child Guidance	22*
Child Abuse Prevention	23*
Business Practices	20*
Learning Activities	15
Health and Safety	34*
CPR	37*
First Aid	39*

*Includes DoD

NOTE: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.

Program Benchmark 5: Minimum Annual Training

Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, learning activities, business practices, health and safety, CPR and first aid.

Hours of Annual Training Required for Family Child Care Providers

State	Required Hours of Annual Training	CPR Required	First Aid Required	CPR and First Aid Included in Required Hours?	Total Hours of Required Annual Training*
Alabama	20	Yes	Yes	No	24
Alaska	12	Yes	Yes	No	16
Arizona	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	12
Arkansas	15	Yes	Yes	No	19
California	4	Yes	Yes	No	8
Colorado	15	Yes	Yes	No	19
Connecticut	0	No	Yes	No	1
Delaware	12	Yes	Yes	No	16
Department Of Defense	24	Yes	Yes	Yes	24
District Of Columbia	9	Yes	Yes	No	13
Florida	10	Yes	Yes	Yes	10
Georgia	10	Yes	Yes	No	14
Hawaii	4	Yes	Yes	No	8
Idaho	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Illinois	15	Yes	Yes	Yes	15
Indiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Iowa	12	Yes	Yes	No	16
Kansas	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	5
Kentucky	9	Yes	Yes	No	13
Louisiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maine	12	Yes	Yes	No	16
Maryland	12	Yes	Yes	No	16
Massachusetts	10	Yes	Yes	No	14
Michigan	10	Yes	Yes	No	14
Minnesota	8	Yes	No	Yes	8
Mississippi	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Missouri	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	12

Hours of Annual Training Required for Family Child Care Providers

State	Required Hours of Annual Training	CPR Required	First Aid Required	CPR and First Aid Included in Required Hours?	Total Hours of Required Annual Training*
Montana	8	Yes	Yes	No	12
Nebraska	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	12
Nevada	15	Yes	Yes	Yes	15
New Hampshire	18	Yes	Yes	No	22
New Jersey	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
New Mexico	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	12
New York	15	Yes	Yes	Yes	15
North Carolina	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	12
North Dakota	9	Yes	Yes	No	13
Ohio	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oklahoma	12	Yes	Yes	No	16
Oregon	4	Yes	Yes	No	8
Pennsylvania	6	No	Yes	No	7
Rhode Island	12	Yes	Yes	No	16
South Carolina	2	No	No	No	2
South Dakota	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tennessee	9	Yes	Yes	Yes	9
Texas	0	No	No	No	0
Utah	20	Yes	Yes	Yes	20
Vermont	6	Yes	Yes	No	10
Virginia	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Washington	10	Yes	Yes	No	14
West Virginia	8	No	No	No	8
Wisconsin	15	Yes	No	No	18
Wyoming	15	Yes	Yes	No	19

*Total hours of annual training **include** additional hours added for CPR and first aid where these topics are required by states.

NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.

Number of States And Required Hours of Annual Training	
Hours of Annual Training Required*	Number of States
None	1
1 to 8	9
9 to 16	26
17 to 23	6
24	2*
<p>*Includes DoD.</p> <p>Note: Hours of annual training include additional hours for CPR and first aid where required by states.</p> <p>NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.</p>	

Annual Training Requirements								
State	Child Development Required	Child Guidance	Child Abuse Prevention	Business Practices	Learning Activities	Health and Safety	CPR	First Aid
Alabama	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alaska	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
California	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colorado	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Delaware	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Department Of Defense	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
District Of Columbia	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Florida	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Idaho	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Illinois	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Iowa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maine	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Maryland	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Mississippi	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Missouri	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Montana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nebraska	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Nevada	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Jersey	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New York	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ohio	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Annual Training Requirements								
State	Child Development Required	Child Guidance	Child Abuse Prevention	Business Practices	Learning Activities	Health and Safety	CPR	First Aid
Oklahoma	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oregon	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Rhode Island	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Carolina	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
South Dakota	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tennessee	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Texas	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Utah	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vermont	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Virginia	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Washington	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Wisconsin	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Wyoming	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<p>NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.</p>								

Number of States that Require Annual Training on Specific Topics			
Topics Required in Annual Training	Number of States	Topics Required in Annual Training	Number of States
Child Development	29*	Learning Activities	20*
Child Guidance	26*	Health and Safety	34*
Child Abuse Prevention	18*	CPR	39*
Business Practices	23*	First Aid	39*
<p>*Includes DoD.</p> <p>NOTE: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.</p>			

Program Benchmark 6: Toys & Materials to Promote Learning

Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight domains: motor development, language and literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages and materials that are culturally sensitive.

Toys and Materials Required in Specific Developmental Domains								
State	Motor Development	Science	Language and Literacy	Dramatic Play	Art	Books for all Ages	Math	Culturally Sensitive Materials
Alabama	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Alaska	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Arkansas	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
California	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Department of Defense	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
District of Columbia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Florida	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Hawaii	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Idaho	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Illinois	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Indiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Iowa	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Kansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kentucky	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Louisiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Maryland	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Minnesota	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

Toys and Materials Required in Specific Developmental Domains								
State	Motor Development	Science	Language and Literacy	Dramatic Play	Art	Books for all Ages	Math	Culturally Sensitive Materials
Mississippi	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Missouri	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Montana	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Nebraska	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Nevada	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
New Hampshire	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
New Jersey	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
New Mexico	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
New York	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
North Carolina	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
North Dakota	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Ohio	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oregon	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Pennsylvania	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Rhode Island	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
South Carolina	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
South Dakota	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tennessee	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Texas	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Utah	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Vermont	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Virginia	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Washington	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Wisconsin	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Wyoming	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.

Number of States that Require Toys/Materials in Each of the Eight Developmental Domains	
Domain	Number of States
Motor Development	30*
Science	15
Language and Literacy	23
Dramatic Play	25
Art	25
Books for all Ages	22
Math	12
Culturally Sensitive Materials	15*
*Includes DoD	

Number of States with Requirements for Toys/Materials in Multiple Domains	
Number of Domains	Number of States
None	12
1 to 4	11*
5 to 7	14
All 8	7
<p>*Includes DoD</p> <p>NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.</p>	

Program Benchmark 7: Learning Activities

Family child care providers are required to offer learning opportunities in eight domains: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce mathematical concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills and limiting television.

Learning Activities Required in Specific Developmental Domains								
State	Plan Learning Activities	Offer Dramatic Play	Read to Children	Provide for Active Play	Introduce Math Concepts	Encourage Self Help Skills	Offer Creative Activities	Limit TV Viewing
Alabama	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Alaska	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
California	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Colorado	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Department of Defense	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
District of Columbia	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Florida	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Idaho	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Illinois	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Indiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Iowa	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Kansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Louisiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maine	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Maryland	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Michigan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Mississippi	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Missouri	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Montana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nebraska	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

Learning Activities Required in Specific Developmental Domains

State	Plan Learning Activities	Offer Dramatic Play	Read to Children	Provide for Active Play	Introduce Math Concepts	Encourage Self Help Skills	Offer Creative Activities	Limit TV Viewing
Nevada	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
New Jersey	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
New York	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Ohio	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oregon	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Pennsylvania	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Carolina	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
South Dakota	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Texas	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Utah	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Vermont	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Virginia	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Washington	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.

Number and Percent of States that Require Program Activities in Each of the Eight Developmental Domains	
Domain	Number of States
Plan Learning Activities	36*
Offer Dramatic Play	21
Read to Children	18
Provide for Active Play	37*
Introduce Mathematical Concepts	11
Encourage Self Help Skills	21
Offer Creative Activities	24
Limit TV/screen Viewing	23*
*Includes DoD	

Number of States and the Number of Domains Addressed in Required Learning Activities	
Number of Domains	Number of States
None	5
1 to 4	17*
5 to 7	14
All 8	8
*Includes DoD NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center	

Program Benchmark 8: Basic Health Requirements

Family child care providers are required to address 10 basic health areas.

Required Health Standards										
State	Hand Washing	Meals and Snacks	Immunizations	Exclusion of Ill Children	Universal Health Requirements	Administration of Medication	Toxic Substances	Diapering and Toileting	Home Sanitation	Weekend and Evening Care
Alabama	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alaska	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
California	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Department of Defense	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
District of Columbia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Florida	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Idaho	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Illinois	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Iowa	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Kansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maine	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maryland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Mississippi	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Missouri	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Montana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Required Health Standards										
State	Hand Washing	Meals and Snacks	Immunizations	Exclusion of Ill Children	Universal Health Requirements	Administration of Medication	Toxic Substances	Diapering and Toileting	Home Sanitation	Weekend and Evening Care
Nebraska	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nevada	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Jersey	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New York	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ohio	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oregon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
South Carolina	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
South Dakota	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Texas	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Utah	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Vermont	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Virginia	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Washington	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center										

Specific Health Practices By Number of States	
Health Requirement	Number of States
Hand washing	40*
Meals and Snacks	42*
Immunizations	42*
Exclusion of Ill Children	41*
Universal Health Requirements	25
Administration of Medication	41*
Toxic Substances	41*
Diapering and Toileting	40*
Home Sanitation	42*
Weekend and Evening Care	33
*Includes DoD	

Number of Health Areas RequiredBy Number of States	
Number of Areas	Number of States
None	2
1 to 4	0
5 to 8	8*
9	12
All 10	22
*Includes DoD NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.	

Program Benchmark 9: Basic Safety Requirements

Family child care providers are required to address 10 basic safety areas.

Required Safety Standards											
State	SIDS Prevention	Appropriate Discipline	Crib Safety	Electrical Hazards	Protection From Bodies of Water	Fire and Emergency Plans	Outdoor Play-ground Surfaces	Supervision	Door Locks and Safety Gates	Transportation	Allows Corporal Punishment?
Alabama	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Alaska	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Arkansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
California	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Connecticut	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Department of Defense	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
District of Columbia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Florida	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Hawaii	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Illinois	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Iowa	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Kansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Maine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Maryland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Michigan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Missouri	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Montana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Nebraska	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Nevada	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Required Safety Standards											
State	SIDS Prevention	Appropriate Discipline	Crib Safety	Electrical Hazards	Protection From Bodies of Water	Fire and Emergency Plans	Outdoor Play-ground Surfaces	Supervision	Door Locks and Safety Gates	Transportation	Allows Corporal Punishment?
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
New York	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
North Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Oregon	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
South Carolina	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes*
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Texas	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes*
Utah	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Vermont	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Washington	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
West Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Wyoming	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<p>NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.</p> <p>*South Carolina and Texas do not specifically prohibit corporal punishment.</p>											

Number of States that Require Specific Safety Practices	
Safety Requirement	Number of States
SIDS Prevention	38*
Discipline	42*
Crib Safety	36*
Electrical Hazards	39*
Protection From Bodies of Water	42*
Fire and Emergency Plans	42*
Outdoor Playground Surfaces	31*
Supervision	42*
Door Locks and Safety Gates	34*
Transportation	41*
<p>*Includes DoD</p> <p>NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.</p>	

Number of Safety Areas Required by States	
Number of Areas	Number of States
None	2
1 to 4	0
5 to 8	9
9	9
All 10	24*
<p>*Includes DoD</p> <p>NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.</p>	

Program Benchmark 10: Parent Communication

Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the used of substitutes, and give written policies to parents.

Strategies for Communication/Involvement with Parents					
State	Ongoing Communi-cation with Parents	Written Contracts	Allow Access when Child is Present	Inform When there is a Substitute	Give Parents a Copy of Written Policies
Alabama	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alaska	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arizona	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Arkansas	No	No	No	No	Yes
California	No	No	Yes	No	No
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Delaware	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Department of Defense	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
District of Columbia	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Florida	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Georgia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Idaho	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Illinois	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Iowa	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kansas	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Louisiana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maine	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Maryland	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Mississippi	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Missouri	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Montana	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Nebraska	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Nevada	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
New Hampshire	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

Strategies for Communication/Involvement with Parents					
State	Ongoing Communi-cation with Parents	Written Contracts	Allow Access when Child is Present	Inform When there is a Substitute	Give Parents a Copy of Written Policies
New Jersey	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
New Mexico	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
New York	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Carolina	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Ohio	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oklahoma	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oregon	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Carolina	No	No	No	No	No
South Dakota	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tennessee	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Texas	No	No	No	No	No
Utah	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Vermont	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Virginia	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Washington	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Wisconsin	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
<p>NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.</p>					

Number of States with Specific Requirements Related to Parents	
Parent Strategies	Number of States
Daily Communication with Parents	22*
Written Contracts with Parents	10*
Allow Parent Access when Child is Present	40*
Inform When there is a Substitute	22*
Give Parents a Copy of Written Policies	35*
*Includes DoD	

Program Benchmark 11: Group Size

Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.

Number of Children Allowed in a Family Child Care Home				
State	Age at which providers' children are no longer counted in enrollment	Maximum number of children allowed under age 6	Number of infants and toddlers allowed with one provider	Total Number of Infants and Toddlers Allowed if No Older Children Present
Alabama	5	6	3	3
Alaska	12	8	3	3
Arizona	10	5	5	5
Arkansas	5	10	3	3
California	10	6	3	4
Colorado	12	6	2	4
Connecticut	12	6	2	2
Delaware	5	6	3	4
Department of Defense	8	6	2	3
District of Columbia	6	6	2	2
Florida	13	6	3	4
Georgia	13	6	3	3
Hawaii	6	6	2	2
Idaho	NA	NA	NA	NA
Illinois	12	5	3	3
Indiana	NA	NA	NA	NA
Iowa	5	6	4	4
Kansas	11	7	3	6
Kentucky	13	6	4	4
Louisiana	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maine	5	8	3	4
Maryland	6	8	2	2
Massachusetts	5	6	3	3
Michigan	7	6	2	4
Minnesota	11	6	3	3
Mississippi	NA	NA	NA	NA
Missouri	13	6	2	4
Montana	6	6	3	4
Nebraska	5	8	4	4
Nevada	4	6	4	4
New Hampshire	10	6	2	2

Number of Children Allowed in a Family Child Care Home				
State	Age at which providers' children are no longer counted in enrollment	Maximum number of children allowed under age 6	Number of infants and toddlers allowed with one provider	Total Number of Infants and Toddlers Allowed if No Older Children Present
New Jersey	NA	NA	NA	NA
New Mexico	6	6	2	2
New York	5	6	2	2
North Carolina	5	5	5	5
North Dakota	12	7	3	4
Ohio	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oklahoma	5	7	2	5
Oregon	13	6	2	2
Pennsylvania	3	6	5	5
Rhode Island	6	6	2	2
South Carolina	15	6	6	6
South Dakota	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tennessee	9	7	4	4
Texas	14	3	3	3
Utah	4	8	2	3
Vermont	2	6	2	3
Virginia	NA	NA	NA	NA
Washington	13	6	3	3
West Virginia	6	6	2	2
Wisconsin	7	8	4	4
Wyoming	6	10	4	5
<p>NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center. These states do not have group sizes applicable to small family child care.</p>				

Group Size Limits for Enrollment of Preschool-Age Children	
Group Size Limits	Number of States
Limit enrollment to six or fewer children less than 6 years of age	32*
Permit enrollment of seven or more children less than 6 years of age	12
<p>*Includes DoD</p> <p>NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center. These states do not have group sizes applicable to small family child care.</p>	

Number of States with Limits on Number of Infants and Toddlers Allowed When Older Children Are Present	
Group Size Limits	Number of States
Limit number of infants and toddlers to two if older children are present	17*
Permits three or more infants and toddlers when older children are present	27
NA	8
Total	52
<p>*Includes DoD</p> <p>NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center. These states do not have group sizes applicable to small family child care.</p>	

Number of States with Limits on Number of Infants and Toddlers Allowed When NO Older Children Are Present	
Group Size Limits	Number of States
Limit number of infants and toddlers to three if no older children are present	22*
Permits four or more infants and toddlers when no older children are present	22
NA	8
Total	52
<p>*Includes DoD</p> <p>NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center. These states do not have group sizes applicable to small family child care.</p>	

Oversight Benchmark 1: Oversight Threshold

All family child care homes that care for unrelated children on a regular basis for a fee should be licensed.

Licensing Threshold for Family Child Care Homes Caring for Unrelated Children				
State	Number of children in care when regulation begins, e.g., when a family child care home is required to be licensed	Are the provider's own children under school age (5 years or under) included in the threshold for regulation?	Is care for the first paid family (NOT the provider's family) exempt from the licensing threshold?	Adjusted total (accounting for provider's children and exempted first family)
Alabama	1	NA	No	1
Alaska	5	No	No	6
Arizona	5	No	No	6
Arkansas	6	Yes	No	6
California	Second Family	No	Yes	3
Colorado	Second Family	No	Yes	3
Connecticut	1	NA	No	1
Delaware	1	NA	No	1
Department Of Defense	1	NA	No	1
District Of Columbia	1	NA	No	1
Florida	Second Family	No	Yes	3
Georgia	3	No	No	4
Hawaii	3	No	No	4
Idaho	7	Yes	No	7
Illinois	4	Yes	Yes	5
Indiana	6	No	No	7
Iowa	6	Yes	No	6
Kansas	1	NA	No	1
Kentucky	4	No	No	5
Louisiana	7	No	No	8
Maine	3	No	No	4
Maryland	1	NA	No	1
Massachusetts	1	NA	No	1
Michigan	1	NA	No	1
Minnesota	Second Family	No	Yes	3
Mississippi	6	No	No	7
Missouri	5	No	No	6
Montana	3	No	No	4

**Licensing Threshold for Family Child Care Homes
Caring for Unrelated Children**

State	Number of children in care when regulation begins, e.g., when a family child care home is required to be licensed	Are the provider's own children under school age (5 years or under) included in the threshold for regulation?	Is care for the first paid family (NOT the provider's family) exempt from the licensing threshold?	Adjusted total (accounting for provider's children and exempted first family)
Nebraska	4	No	No	5
Nevada	5	No	No	6
New Hampshire	4	No	No	5
New Jersey	6	No	No	7
New Mexico	5	No	No	6
New York	3	No	No	4
North Carolina	3	No	No	4
North Dakota	6	Yes	No	6
Ohio	7	Yes	No	7
Oklahoma	1	NA	No	1
Oregon	4	No	Yes	6
Pennsylvania	4	No	No	5
Rhode Island	4	No	No	5
South Carolina	Second Family	No	Yes	3
South Dakota	13	Yes	No	13
Tennessee	5	No	No	6
Texas	1	NA	No	1
Utah	5	No	No	6
Vermont	Third Family	No	Yes	4
Virginia	6	No	No	7
Washington	1	NA	No	1
West Virginia	4	Yes	No	4
Wisconsin	4	No	No	5
Wyoming	3	No	Yes	5

NA: Not Applicable, as licensing begins with the first unrelated child.

Adjusted total adds 1 child when provider's children are not included in the threshold and when the first family is exempted.

Number of States at Different Thresholds of Licensing for Small Family Child Care Homes	
Threshold for Licensing (Based on Adjusted Total*)	Number of States
Require licensing starting with first child	12*
Require licensing for second or third family	6
Require licensing for four to six children	27
Require licensing for 7 or more children	8
<p>*Includes DoD</p> <p>Note: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined above by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.</p>	

Oversight Benchmark 2: Inspections

Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.

Inspection Before Licensing			
State	Inspection	State	Inspection
Alabama	Yes	Missouri	Yes
Alaska	Yes	Montana	No
Arizona	Yes	Nebraska	No
Arkansas	Yes	Nevada	Yes
California	Yes	New Hampshire	Yes
Colorado	Yes	New Jersey	NA
Connecticut	Yes	New Mexico	Yes
Delaware	Yes	New York	Yes
Department Of Defense	Yes	North Carolina	Yes
District Of Columbia	Yes	North Dakota	Yes
Florida	Yes	Ohio	NA
Georgia	Yes	Oklahoma	Yes
Hawaii	Yes	Oregon	Yes
Idaho	NA	Pennsylvania	No
Illinois	Yes	Rhode Island	Yes
Indiana	NA	South Carolina	No
Iowa	No	South Dakota	NA
Kansas	Yes	Tennessee	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	Texas	No
Louisiana	NA	Utah	Yes
Maine	Yes	Vermont	Yes
Maryland	Yes	Virginia	NA
Massachusetts	Yes	Washington	Yes
Michigan	No	West Virginia	No
Minnesota	Yes	Wisconsin	Yes
Mississippi	NA	Wyoming	Yes

NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.

Frequency of Inspections							
State	Inspection Frequency	Number of Inspections	Per How Many Years	Inspection Before Licensing	Inspection on Complaint	Routine Visits Unannounced	Complaint Visits Unannounced
Alabama	Once every two years	1	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alaska	Once every two years	1	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arizona	Twice a year	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	Three times a year	3	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
California	Once every five or more years	1	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colorado	Once every two years	1	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connecticut #	Once every three years	1	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Delaware #	Once a year	1	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Department Of Defense	Four or more times a year	4	1	Yes	No	Yes	No
District Of Columbia #	Twice a year	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Florida	Twice a year	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Twice a year	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	Once a year	1	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Idaho^	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Illinois	Once a year	1	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indiana^	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Iowa*	Once every two years	1	2	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kansas	Once a year	1	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kentucky	Once every two years	1	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Louisiana^	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maine	Once every two years	1	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maryland	Once a year	1	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	Once a year	1	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan*,#	Once every ten years	1	10	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	Once every two years	1	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mississippi^	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Missouri	Four times a year	4	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Montana*,#	Once every five years	1	5	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nebraska*	Once a year	1	1	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nevada	Three times a year	3	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Hampshire	Once a year	1	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Jersey^	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
New Mexico	Three times a year	3	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New York	Four or more times a year	4	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Frequency of Inspections							
State	Inspection Frequency	Number of Inspections	Per How Many Years	Inspection Before Licensing	Inspection on Complaint	Routine Visits Unannounced	Complaint Visits Unannounced
North Carolina	Once a year	1	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	Twice a year	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ohio^	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oklahoma	Three times a year	3	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oregon	Once a year	1	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania*,#	Once every six or more years	1	6	No	Yes	No	Yes
Rhode Island #	Once every two years	1	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Carolina*	not required	0	0	No	Yes	No	Yes
South Dakota^	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tennessee	Six times a year	6	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Texas*	not required	0	0	No	No	No	Yes
Utah	Twice a year	2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vermont #	Not required	0	0	Yes	No	No	No
Virginia^	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Washington #	Once every 18 months	1	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
West Virginia*	Once a year	1	1	No	No	Yes	No
Wisconsin	Once a year	1	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	Four or more times a year	4	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

States with an * do not conduct an inspection or site visit before issuing a child care license. States with ^ do not license small family child care homes (homes in which a provider cares for 6 or fewer children).

Additional state notes: Connecticut: Annual inspections are not required, but inspectors are required to visit at least one-third of FCC homes each year. Michigan: Statute requires that 10% of homes are inspected each year. Missouri includes 2 fire inspections every year. Montana: Statute requires that 20% of all registered family day care homes are inspected on a yearly basis. Homes also receive an annual fire inspection. Pennsylvania: Licensing inspects an annual random sample of 15% of all registered family child care homes. South Carolina: Most Family Child Care homes in South Carolina are registered, not licensed. Registration is by mail every year. Registered FCC are only inspected for complaints. If FCC homes choose to be licensed or if they are required to be licensed (care for more than six children), licensed FCC are inspected before licensing, annually, and at complaints. Texas does not conduct routine inspections of listed family child care homes. Vermont does not conduct routine inspections after the initial licensing inspection. Washington conducts inspections every 18 months. Delaware, DC and Rhode Island conduct a fire inspection annually. DC conducts a lead inspection.

Number of States conducting Licensing Inspections	
Inspection Type	Number of States
Inspection Before Licensing	36*
Inspection on Complaint	40*
Routine Visit Unannounced	40*
Complaint Visit Unannounced	41*
<p>*Includes DoD</p> <p>NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.</p>	

Frequency of Inspections for Licensed Care	
Frequency	Number of States
Four or more times a year	5*
Two to three times a year	10
Once a year	12
Once every two to three years	10**
Once every four or more years	4
Not Required #	3
<p>Includes DoD</p> <p>NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.</p> <p>**Washington is included in the category of every two-three years, however, the state inspects family child care homes once every 18 months.</p> <p># South Carolina, Texas and Vermont do not require routine inspections.</p> <p>Note: Delaware, DC and Rhode Island conduct a fire inspection annually. DC conducts a lead inspection.</p>	

Oversight Benchmark 3: Oversight Caseloads

Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.

Ratio of Programs to Licensing Staff			
State	Ratio of Programs to Licensing Staff	State	Ratio of Programs to Licensing Staff
Alabama	65	Missouri	82
Alaska	33	Montana	106
Arizona	87	Nebraska	180
Arkansas	70	Nevada	65
California	257	New Hampshire	116
Colorado	140	New Jersey	NA
Connecticut	332	New Mexico	27
Delaware	150	New York	85
Department Of Defense	40	North Carolina	74
District Of Columbia	90	North Dakota	32
Florida	76	Ohio	NA
Georgia	120	Oklahoma	50
Hawaii	55	Oregon	285
Idaho	NA	Pennsylvania	102
Illinois	65	Rhode Island	200
Indiana	NA	South Carolina	86
Iowa	408	South Dakota	NA
Kansas	70	Tennessee	22
Kentucky	86	Texas	NA
Louisiana	NA	Utah	74
Maine	96	Vermont	275
Maryland	115	Virginia	NA
Massachusetts	340	Washington	97
Michigan	168	West Virginia	80
Minnesota*	150	Wisconsin	84
Mississippi	NA	Wyoming	66

*The number for Minnesota is the average family child care caseload for five of Minnesota's largest counties.

NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center. In Texas, the lowest level of regulation is listed care. Listed homes are not subject to oversight.

Number of States with Specific Licensing Staff Caseloads	
Program:Licensing Staff Ratio	Number of States
101 or more :1	17*
91 to 100:1	2
81 to 90:1	6
71 to 80:1	4
61 to 70:1	6
51 to 60:1	1
50 to 1 or less:1	7**
<p>*The number for Minnesota is the average family child care caseload for five of Minnesota's largest counties. **Includes DoD</p> <p>NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center. In Texas, the lowest level of regulation is listed care. Listed homes are not subject to oversight.</p>	

Oversight Benchmark 4: Licensing Staff Qualifications

Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.

Education Requirements for Licensing Staff			
State	Education Requirements for Licensing Staff	State	Education Requirements for Licensing Staff
Alabama	Bachelor's in Unrelated Field	Missouri	Bachelors in Unrelated Field
Alaska	Less than an Associate Degree	Montana	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field
Arizona	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field	Nebraska	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field
Arkansas	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field	Nevada	Less than an Associate Degree
California	Less than an Associate Degree	New Hampshire	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field
Colorado	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field	New Jersey	NA
Connecticut	Less than an Associate Degree	New Mexico	Less than an Associate Degree
Delaware	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field	New York	Bachelors in Unrelated Field
Department Of Defense	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field	North Carolina	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field
District Of Columbia	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field	North Dakota	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field
Florida	Bachelors in Unrelated Field	Ohio	NA
Georgia	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field	Oklahoma	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field
Hawaii	Bachelors in Unrelated Field	Oregon	Less than an Associate Degree
Idaho	NA	Pennsylvania	Less than an Associate Degree
Illinois	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field	Rhode Island	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field
Indiana	NA	South Carolina	Bachelors in Unrelated Field
Iowa	Bachelors in Unrelated Field	South Dakota	NA
Kansas	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field	Tennessee	Bachelors in Unrelated Field
Kentucky	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field	Texas	--
Louisiana	NA	Utah	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field
Maine	Less than an Associate Degree	Vermont	Less than an Associate Degree
Maryland	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field	Virginia	NA
Massachusetts	Less than an Associate Degree	Washington	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field
Michigan	Master's in ECE or Related Field	West Virginia	Bachelors in Unrelated Field
Minnesota	Bachelors in ECE or Related Field	Wisconsin	Less than an Associate Degree
Mississippi	NA	Wyoming	Bachelors in Unrelated Field

NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center. For Texas, listed providers are not considered to be under the purview of licensing staff. In Texas, the lowest level of regulation is listed care. Listed homes are not subject to oversight.

Number of States Requiring Specific Licensing Staff Qualifications	
Education Required	Number of States
Bachelor's Degree or higher in ECE or Related Field	22*
Bachelor's Degree in Unrelated Field	10
Less than an Associate Degree	12
<p>*Includes DoD</p> <p>NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center. In Texas, the lowest level of regulation is listed care. Listed homes are not subject to oversight.</p>	

Oversight Benchmark 5: Posting Inspection Reports

Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.

Licensing Inspection and Complaint Reports Online

State	Inspection Report Online	Complaint Report Online	State	Inspection Report Online	Complaint Report Online
Alabama	No	No	Missouri	Yes	No
Alaska	No	No	Montana	Yes	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Nebraska	No	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	Yes	Nevada	No	No
California	No	No	New Hampshire	Yes	Yes
Colorado	Yes	Yes	New Jersey	NA	NA
Connecticut	Yes	Yes	New Mexico	Yes	Yes
Delaware	Yes	Yes	New York	Yes	Yes
Department Of Defense	No	No	North Carolina	Yes	Yes
District Of Columbia	No	No	North Dakota	No	No
Florida	Yes	Yes	Ohio	NA	NA
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Oklahoma	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	No	No	Oregon	No	Yes
Idaho	NA	NA	Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes
Illinois	No	No	Rhode Island	No	No
Indiana	NA	NA	South Carolina	Yes	Yes
Iowa	No	No	South Dakota	NA	NA
Kansas	Yes	Yes	Tennessee	No	No
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	Texas	No	No
Louisiana	NA	NA	Utah	Yes	Yes
Maine	No	No	Vermont	Yes	Yes
Maryland	Yes	Yes	Virginia	NA	NA
Massachusetts	No	No	Washington	Yes	Yes
Michigan	Yes	Yes	West Virginia	No	No
Minnesota	No	No	Wisconsin	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	NA	NA	Wyoming	No	No

NA: Eight states, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia do not license small family child care homes as defined by NACCRRA. In some of these states, a family child care home is not licensed until the number of children cared for reaches what NACCRRA defines as a Large Family Child Care Home. Louisiana and New Jersey license family child care homes as centers. In New Jersey, homes with six or more children are licensed as a center. In Louisiana, homes with seven or more children are licensed as a center.

Licensing Inspection and Complaint Reports Online

Report	Number of States
Inspection Reports*	24
Complaint Reports*	25

* DoD does not offer reports online.

Appendix C

Definition Of Different Types Of Regulation

Certification: (Refer to Registration). Generally certification is the same as registration, but often is linked to providers receiving public funds.

Exempt Care: Some entities do not require family child care providers to be regulated in any way when caring for less than a specific number of children. (For example, in one state, registration is required when a provider cares for four to six children and licensing is required when a provider cares for seven to 12 children; however, a provider is legally exempt from regulation if she cares for only one to three children.) In addition, some entities exempt from regulation those providers who do not receive public (state, federal, local) funds. (For example, a provider who cares for children receiving a child care subsidy is required to be regulated, but one who has no children receiving a subsidy is not.)

In some states, some types of providers are specifically exempted from regulation (for example, programs that operate less than 4 hours a day, programs that are located in a public school, programs that are sponsored by a religious organization or that offer religious curriculum, etc.).

Licensing: The granting of formal permission by a designated state/territory or local agency to an individual or legal entity to operate a child care facility. The entity has the authority to ensure that standards are being met, set procedures for revoking a license and provide appeal mechanisms. In addition to the inspections carried out by the licensing agency, local fire and health departments also carry out on-site inspections of family child care homes. Generally a license is issued and

renewed as long as all of the applicable regulations are being met. The purpose, then, is to protect vulnerable consumers by setting a minimum floor for reasonably safe service.

Registration (Type 1): Registration is a form of regulation that stresses caregiver self-inspection and parent awareness. It is intended to identify service providers that the government cannot or chooses not to license. The process works in the following way: Registration standards are determined. These may or may not be the standards used for licensing. When the provider receives information detailing these standards she does a self-study to determine whether these standards are met. This study usually includes self-certification that the provider has met certain fire and health standards. It may or may not also include other requirements such as a medical examination, TB screening, child abuse clearance, criminal records check and/or finger printing. On receipt of this information by the regulating agency, the family child care home is considered to be registered and has permission to operate. Inspection or monitoring visits are usually done by random sample or when a complaint has been filed.

Registration (Type 2): In some states, registration is a simple sign-up procedure where operating family child care homes are listed with the regulatory agency. These homes are only required to sign a health and safety checklist agreeing to meet minimum standards of health and safety. Generally, no inspection/monitoring visit takes place.

Relative Care: Generally, this is care provided by an individual related to the child by blood, marriage, or adoption; however, some entities have broadened this definition. (Consult the specific state/territory regulation for the definition used.)

Self-certification: Self-certification is the process where a potential provider obtains a form from the proper licensing agency, fills it out as it pertains to the potential family child care home, may or may not need to get the form notarized, and then returns the form to the licensing agency. It may or may not include other requirements such as a medical examination, child abuse clearance, criminal records check, TB screening or finger printing. It may or may not include a random-sample inspection or monitoring visit.

Voluntary Registration/Certification: Generally, this means a provider states in writing that she/he agrees to meet minimum standards of health and safety. It may or may not also include other requirements, such as a medical exam, child abuse clearance, TB screening, etc. Inspection or monitoring visits only occur when a complaint has been filed.

Appendix D

Methodology

In November 2011, NACCRRA sent a request to child care licensing directors in all 51 states (including the District of Columbia) and a representative from the Office of Family Policy/Office of Children and Youth in the Department of Defense (DoD). We asked them to verify the accuracy of information we had gathered about specific licensing regulations in their state related to small family child care homes.

The data was based on NACCRRA's *Leaving Children to Chance* 2008 and 2010 reports and our examination of licensing regulations that had changed since the 2010 report. Licensing directors were asked to provide information about changes including specific citations notating the change. This information was verified using the state child care regulations gathered by the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education or other written documents. Information for DoD was taken from the *Department of Defense Instruction 6060.2* and other relevant Department of Defense documents.⁶⁵ We received responses from all 51 states and DoD. Regulatory changes that are in the consideration phase or had not yet taken effect by March 2012 (when this report was released) were not credited. There were instances in which individual states clarified their existing requirements, resulting in adjustments to coding of some items even though there were no actual changes to regulations since 2010.

States were given credit only if the regulation could be verified in a written document such as the state's regulations or policy manual. States did not receive credit if written documentation could not be found or if the language in the regulation was permissive (e.g., the program may or may not follow a regulation). In cases where states permit several different options for complying (e.g., complying with family child care education qualifications), the minimum allowed was used.

Benchmark criteria were developed by NACCRRA and have been used for the 2008, 2010 and 2012 *Leaving Children to Chance* reports, with changes for 2012 as described below. The rationale for each standard, including research evidence of its importance in quality care, is noted in each section of the report and in previous reports.

Scoring

For 2012, the scoring methodology for small family child care was adjusted to be more consistent with the scoring approach for the *We Can Do Better* report, NACCRRA's biennial ranking of child care centers. The major effect of this adjustment was to place greater emphasis on oversight standards, consistent with those for *We Can Do Better*. This change was made because of our conviction that strong program regulations are meaningless without strong oversight. This change affected final scores even for some states that did not have any substantive change in regulations.

Although this change prevents direct comparison with NACCRRA's previous years' small family child care reports, it is more conceptually in line with our scoring of child care center regulations. The following adjustments were made to small family child care scoring:

1. Addition of scoring for licensing staff caseload (ratio of program: staff).
2. Addition of scoring for licensing staff qualifications.
3. Addition of scoring for availability of online inspection and complaint reports for parents.
4. Adjustment of scoring for initial training.
5. Adjustment of scoring for inspections.

States could receive a maximum of 10 points for each of the areas scored or partial credit based on state requirements. Based on the number of children allowed in the home before licensing begins, NACCRRA used a sliding fractional scale to arrive at the final score. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150.

The total score was adjusted for some states based on select criteria:

1. Threshold at which required licensing/regulation begins:

Final scores reflect an adjustment based on the number of children providers could have in their care before they are required to be licensed/registered.

To derive the total number of children in care, NACCRRA started with the number of children in care when state licensing begins. One child was added if the state does not include the provider's own children in the licensing threshold. One child was added for each family exempted before licensing begins. In states where the threshold for required licensing is two or more children (or families), the total score was adjusted progressively depending on the threshold at which licensing begins.

In some states, regulation for small family child care providers is voluntary or only required for participation in subsidy programs. This report scores the lowest level of regulation applicable to all providers.

2. Inspection before licensing:

States receive a zero if they do not visit family child care homes prior to issuing a license. The score these states otherwise would have received is recorded, but this score is not used for ranking. These states are ranked at the bottom of the charts that show scores in descending order reflecting their total points. For example Michigan is ranked 37th because the state would have received the highest total of points (107) among states scoring zero if only the state had conducted an inspection before granting a license.

3. No required regulation for small family child care homes:

This report scores the states that regulate small family child care homes, which NACCRRA defines as caring for six or fewer children in the home. States received a zero score if they do not license family child care, or the number of children (including the provider's own children) who the provider can care for without a license is seven or greater.

The information was used to generate state sheets with a total score, scores for each standard and a list of strengths, weaknesses and recommendations for each state. Generally, scores less than 50 percent (half moon) were noted as a weakness, while scores above 75 percent (three-quarter moon) were noted as a strength.

Endnotes

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table 2A: Primary child care arrangements of preschoolers under 5 years old living with employed mothers by selected characteristics: Spring 2010. Retrieved January 28, 2012, from <http://www.census.gov/hhes/childcare/data/sipp/2010/tab02A.xls>
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- ⁵ U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2006). *Early Childhood Program Participation Survey of the National Household Education Surveys Program* (ECPN-NHES:2005). Table 53. Number of children under 6 years old and not yet enrolled in kindergarten, percentage in center-based programs, average weekly hours in nonparental care, and percentage in various types of primary care arrangements, by selected child and family characteristics: 2005. Retrieved January 27, 2012, from http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d10/tables/dt10_053.asp
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- ⁹ Ibid.
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