

## General Requirements

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

- Valid license posted for parents to see.
- All staff appropriately screened.
- Maintain appropriate transportation vehicles (if transportation is provided).
- Provide parents with written disciplinary practices used by the facility.
- Provide access to the facility during normal hours of operation.
- Maintain minimum staff-to-child ratios:

Age of Child	Child:Teacher Ratio
Infant	4:1
1 year old	6:1
2 year old	11:1
3 year old	15:1
4 year old	20:1
5 year old and up	25:1

### Health Related Requirements

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

### Training Requirements

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

### Food and Nutrition

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

### Record Keeping

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

### Physical Environment

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

## Quality Child Care

Quality child care offers healthy, social, and educational experiences under qualified supervision in a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment. Children in these settings participate in daily, age-appropriate activities that help develop essential skills, build independence and instill self-respect. When evaluating the quality of a child care setting, the following indicators should be considered:

### Quality Activities

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

### Quality Caregivers

- Are friendly and eager to care for children.
  - Accept family cultural and ethnic differences.
  - Are warm, understanding, encouraging, and responsive to each child's individual needs.
  - Use a pleasant tone of voice and frequently hold, cuddle, and talk to the children.
  - Help children manage their behavior in a positive, constructive, and non-threatening manner.
  - Allow children to play alone or in small groups.
  - Are attentive to and interact with the children.
  - Provide stimulating, interesting, and educational activities.
  - Demonstrate knowledge of social and emotional needs and developmental tasks for all children.
  - Communicate with parents.
- ### Quality Environments
- Are clean, safe, inviting, comfortable, child-friendly.
  - Provide easy access to age-appropriate toys.
  - Display children's activities and creations.
  - Provide a safe and secure environment that fosters the growing independence of all children.

