

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR LICENSED CHILD DAY CENTERS
22 VAC 15-30-10 et seq.

CHAPTER 30.
MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR LICENSED CHILD DAY CENTERS.

PART I.
INTRODUCTION.

22 VAC 15-30-10. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Adult" means any individual 18 years of age or older.

"Age and stage appropriate" means the curriculum, environment, equipment, and adult-child interactions are suitable for the ages of the children within a group and the individual needs of any child.

"Age groups"

"Infant" means children from birth to 16 months.

"Toddler" means children from 16 months up to two years.

"Preschool" means children from two years up to the age of eligibility to attend public school, five years by September 30.

"School age" means children eligible to attend public school, age five or older by September 30 of that same year. Four- or five-year-old children included in a group of school age children may be considered school age during the summer months if the children will be entering kindergarten that year.

"Attendance" means the actual presence of an enrolled child.

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"Balanced mixed-age grouping" means a program planned for three- through five-year-old children in which the enrollment in the group is comprised of 1/3 of each of three ages and is designed for children and staff to remain together with turnover planned only for the replacement of graduating older children with incoming younger children.

"Camp" means a child day camp.

"Center" means a child day center.

"Child" means any individual under 18 years of age.

"Child day camp" means a child day center for school age children that operates during the summer vacation months only. Four-year-old children who will be five by September 30 of that same year may be included in a camp for school age children.

"Child day center" means a child day program offered to (i) two or more children under the age of 13 in a facility that is not the residence of the provider or of any of the children in care or (ii) 13 or more children at any location.

Exemptions: (§63.1-196.001 of the Code of Virginia).

1. A child day center that has obtained an exemption pursuant to §63.1-196.3 of the Code of Virginia;
2. A program where, by written policy given to and signed by a parent or guardian, children are free to enter and leave the premises without permission or supervision. A program that would qualify for this exemption except that it assumes responsibility for the supervision, protection and well-being of several children with disabilities who are mainstreamed shall not be subject to licensure;

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3. A program of instructional experience in a single focus, such as, but not limited to, computer science, archaeology, sport clinics, or music, if children under the age of six do not attend at all and if no child is allowed to attend for more than 25 days in any three-month period commencing with enrollment. This exemption does not apply if children merely change their enrollment to a different focus area at a site offering a variety of activities and such children's attendance exceeds 25 days in a three-month period;
4. Programs of instructional or recreational activities wherein no child under age six attends for more than six hours weekly with no class or activity period to exceed 1 ½ hours, and no child six years of age or above attends for more than six hours weekly when school is in session or 12 hours weekly when school is not in session. Competition, performances and exhibitions related to the instructional or recreational activity shall be excluded when determining the hours of program operation;
5. A program that operates no more than a total of 20 program days in the course of a calendar year provided that programs serving children under age six operate no more than two consecutive weeks without a break of at least a week;
6. Instructional programs offered by public and private schools that satisfy compulsory attendance laws or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 USC §1470 et seq.), and programs of school-sponsored extracurricular

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activities that are focused on single interests such as, but not limited to, music,

sports, drama, civic service, or foreign language;

7. Education and care programs provided by public schools which are not exempt pursuant to subdivision 6 under the child day center definition in this section shall be regulated by the State Board of Education using regulations that incorporate, but may exceed, the regulations for child day centers licensed by the commissioner;

8. Early intervention programs for children eligible under Part H of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 USC §1470 et seq.), wherein no child attends for more than a total of six hours per week;

9. Practice or competition in organized competitive sports leagues;

10. Programs of religious instruction, such as Sunday schools, vacation Bible schools, and Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah classes, and child-minding services provided to allow parents or guardians who are on site to attend religious worship or instructional services;

11. Child-minding services which are not available for more than three hours per day for any individual child offered on site in commercial or recreational establishments if the parent or guardian (i) is not an on-duty employee, except for part-time employees working less than two hours per day, (ii) can be contacted and can resume responsibility for the child's supervision within 30 minutes, and

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(iii) is receiving or providing services or participating in activities offered by the establishment;

12. A certified preschool or nursery school program operated by a private school which is accredited by a statewide accrediting organization recognized by the State Board of Education or accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children's National Academy of Early Childhood Programs , the Association of Christian Schools International, the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation, the National Accreditation Council for Early Childhood Professional Personnel and Programs, the International Academy for Private Education, Standards for the American Montessori Society Accreditation, the International Accreditation and Certification of Childhood Educators, Programs, and Trainers, or the National Accreditation Commission and which complies with the provisions of §63.1-196.3:1 of the Code of Virginia; or

13. By policy, a child day center that is required to be programmatically licensed by another state agency for that service.

"Child day program" means a regularly operating service arrangement for children where, during the absence of a parent or guardian, a person or organization has agreed to assume responsibility for the supervision, protection, and well-being of a child under the age of 13 for less than a 24-hour period.

Note: This does not include programs such as drop-in playgrounds or clubs for children when there is no service arrangement with the child's parent.

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"Children with disabilities" means those children evaluated as having autism, deaf-blindness, a developmental delay, a hearing impairment which may include deafness, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, an orthopedic impairment, a serious emotional disturbance, a severe or profound disability, a specific learning disorder, a speech or language impairment, a traumatic brain injury, or a visual impairment which may include blindness.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Social Services, also known as the Director of the Virginia Department of Social Services.

"Department" means the Virginia Department of Social Services.

"Department's representative" means an employee or designee of the Virginia Department of Social Services, acting as the authorized agent of the commissioner.

"Evening care" means care provided in a center after 7 p.m. but not through the night.

"Good character and reputation" means knowledgeable and objective people agree that the individual (i) maintains business, professional, family, and community relationships which are characterized by honesty, fairness, and truthfulness, and (ii) demonstrates a concern for the well-being of others to the extent that the individual is considered suitable to be entrusted with the care, guidance, and protection of children. Relatives by blood or marriage and people who are not knowledgeable of the individual, such as recent acquaintances, shall not be considered objective references.

"Independent contractor" means an individual who enters into an agreement to provide specialized services for a specified period of time.

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"Individual service, education or treatment plan" means a plan identifying the child's strengths, needs, general functioning and plan for providing services to the child. The service plan includes specific goals and objectives for services, accommodations and intervention strategies. The service, education or treatment plan clearly shows documentation and reassessment/evaluation strategies.

"Intervention strategies" means a plan for staff action that outlines methods, techniques, cues, programs, or tasks that enable the child to successfully complete a specific goal.

"Licensee" means any individual, partnership, association, public agency, or corporation to whom the license is issued.

"Minor injury" means a wound or other specific damage to the body such as, but not limited to, a small scratch, cut or scrape, minor bruise or discoloration of the skin.

"Overnight care" means care provided after 7 p.m. and through the night.

"Parent" means the biological or adoptive parent or parents or legal guardian or guardians of a child enrolled in or in the process of being admitted to a center.

"Physician" means an individual licensed to practice medicine in any of the 50 states or the District of Columbia.

"Primitive camp" means a camp where places of abode, water supply system, permanent toilet and cooking facilities are not usually provided.

"Programmatic experience in the group care of children" means time spent working directly with children in a group, in a child day center or family day home regulated by

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the state Department of Social Services, the state Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, or the state Department of Education; provided that "regulated" shall specifically include, without limitation, day care centers qualifying for exemption from licensure under §§63.1-196.3 and 63.1-196.3:1 of the Code of Virginia. Work time shall be computed on the basis of full-time work experience during the period prescribed or equivalent work time over a longer period.

"Resilient surfacing" means (i) for outdoor use underneath and surrounding equipment, mats manufactured for such use that meet the guidelines of the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the standards of the American Society for Testing Materials or at least six inches of materials, such as, but not limited to, loose sand, wood chips, wood mulch, or pea gravel, and (ii) for indoor use underneath and surrounding equipment, padding of two or more inches. Natural grass and compacted materials do not qualify as resilient surfacing.

"Sanitized" means washed to reduce the amount of filth and harmful micro-organisms through the use of (i) hot water with soap, detergent or abrasive cleaners or (ii) a chemical sanitizing solution.

"Serious injury" means a wound or other specific damage to the body such as, but not limited to, unconsciousness; broken bones; deep cut requiring stitches; concussion; foreign object lodged in eye, nose, ear, or other body orifice.

"Short-term program" means a child day center that operates less than 12 weeks a year.

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"Significant injury" means a wound or other specific damage to the body such as, but not limited to, head injuries, dislocations, sprains.

"Special needs child day program" means a program exclusively serving children with disabilities.

"Specialty camps" means those centers which have an educational or recreational focus on one subject such as dance, drama, music, or sports.

"Sponsor" means an individual, partnership, association, public agency, corporation or other legal entity in whom the ultimate authority and legal responsibility is vested for the administration and operation of a center subject to licensure.

"Staff" means administrative, activity, and service personnel including the licensee when the licensee is an individual who works in the center, and any persons counted in the staff-to-children ratios or any persons working with a child without sight and sound supervision of a staff member.

"Staff positions" are defined as follows:

"Aide" means the individual designated to be responsible for helping the program leader/child care supervisor in supervising children and in implementing the activities and services for children.

"Program leader" or "child care supervisor" means the individual designated to be responsible for the direct supervision of children and for implementation of the activities and services for a group of children.

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"Program director" means the primary, on-site director or coordinator designated to be responsible for developing and implementing the activities and services offered to children, including the supervision, orientation, training, and scheduling of staff who work directly with children, whether or not the program director personally performs these functions.

EXCEPTION: The administrator may perform staff orientation or training or program development functions if the administrator meets the qualifications of 22VAC15-30-230 and a written delegation of responsibility specifies the duties of the program director.

"Administrator" means a manager or coordinator designated to be in charge of the total operation and management of one or more centers. The administrator may be responsible for supervising the program director or, if appropriately qualified, may concurrently serve as the program director.

"Therapeutic child day program" means a specialized program, including but not limited to therapeutic recreation programs, exclusively serving children with disabilities when an individual service, education or treatment plan is developed and implemented with the goal of improving the functional abilities of the children in care.

"Universal precautions" means an approach to infection control. According to the concept of universal precautions, all human blood and certain human body fluids are treated as if known to be infectious for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and other bloodborne pathogens.

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"Volunteer" means a person who works at the center and:

1. Is not paid;
2. Is not counted in the staff-to-children ratios; and
3. Is in sight and sound supervision of a staff member when working with a child.

Any unpaid person not meeting this definition shall be considered "staff."

I certify that this regulation is full, true, and correctly dated.

Sonia Rivero, Acting Commissioner
Department of Social Services

Date