

TIP SHEET FOR PARENTS : CHILD CARE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Child care licensing exists to ensure the health and safety of children in out of home care and to establish minimum standards for operation of child care facilities. Although child care licensing provides support to help child care providers offer quality care, meeting licensing requirements does not guarantee that a program provides high quality care for children. Parents need to carefully screen child care programs to ensure that their children are receiving the best care possible.

	Child Care Center Requirements	Family Child Care Requirements																														
Background Check	All child care providers are required to have a background check.	A background check is required for anyone in the home over the age of 18 years.																														
Training	15 clock hours of training per year related to one or more of the following areas: child growth and development, healthy and safe environment, developmentally appropriate practices, guidance, family relationship, cultural and individual diversity, or professionalism. 3 of the 15 clock hours must cover social emotional development. Training in Universal Precautions																															
Certifications	CPR and First Aid for all Infant/Toddler staff, and opening and closing staff One person certified in Medication Administration	Certified in First Aid, CPR, and Medication Administration for children of all ages.																														
Inspections	Must have periodic inspections by the health department and the fire department	Must have home inspected to ensure compliance with licensing regulations																														
Ratios	The adult to child ratio requirements depends on the ages of the children in the classroom. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Ages of Children</u></th> <th><u>Staff to child ratio</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6 weeks to 18 months (infants)</td> <td>1 to 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 months to 36 months</td> <td>1 to 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24 months to 36 months</td> <td>1 to 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 1/2 years to 3 years</td> <td>1 to 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 years to 4 years</td> <td>1 to 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 years to 5 years</td> <td>1 to 12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 years and older</td> <td>1 to 15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed aged group (2 1/2 to 6)</td> <td>1 to 10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> If 20% of the group is the age of the youngest child then the staff ratio for the younger age group must be used.	<u>Ages of Children</u>	<u>Staff to child ratio</u>	6 weeks to 18 months (infants)	1 to 5	12 months to 36 months	1 to 5	24 months to 36 months	1 to 7	2 1/2 years to 3 years	1 to 8	3 years to 4 years	1 to 10	4 years to 5 years	1 to 12	5 years and older	1 to 15	Mixed aged group (2 1/2 to 6)	1 to 10	The number of children in a family child care home depends on the license type of the provider. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>License Type</u></th> <th><u>Total</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6+2 -Standard (2 under 2 yrs, 4 over 2yrs , + 2 school age)</td> <td>8 kids</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 under 2 (3 under 2 yrs, 3 over 2yrs)</td> <td>6 kids</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Infant/Toddler (2 under 1yr plus 2 under 3yrs)</td> <td>4 kids</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Large Family Home (2 under 2, 10 over 2 with 2 adults)</td> <td>12 kids</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Experienced Home (2 under 2 up to 7 over 2)</td> <td>9 kids</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>License Type</u>	<u>Total</u>	6+2 -Standard (2 under 2 yrs, 4 over 2yrs , + 2 school age)	8 kids	3 under 2 (3 under 2 yrs, 3 over 2yrs)	6 kids	Infant/Toddler (2 under 1yr plus 2 under 3yrs)	4 kids	Large Family Home (2 under 2, 10 over 2 with 2 adults)	12 kids	Experienced Home (2 under 2 up to 7 over 2)	9 kids
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Low adult to child ratios is a strong indicator of quality! Be sure to ask programs what their specific ratios are.

For more information on licensing requirements or to view a child care providers records visit the [Colorado Shines](http://ColoradoShines.org) website or call (800) 799-5879.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.ECCLC.ORG