

The 2007 Child Care Licensing Study

Washington State Profile

LICENSING AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

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NUMBER OF LICENSED FACILITIES AND LICENSED CAPACITY

Facility Type	Number of Licensed Facilities	Licensed Capacity
Child care centers	2,092	123,782
Small FCC homes	5,387	50,106
Large/group FCC homes	NC	NC
Other types of licensed facilities	0	0
Total	7,479	173,888

NUMBER OF LICENSING SUPERVISORS, STAFF, AND CASELOADS

Total number of full-time equivalent licensing supervisors	19
Total number of full-time equivalent line staff	86
Estimated caseload ratio (i.e., number of facilities per line staff)	87:1

Note: NCCIC/NARA calculated the estimated caseload by dividing the total number of licensed facilities (i.e., centers and FCC homes) by the total number of licensing line staff.

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FREQUENCY OF INSPECTIONS BY TYPE			
Type	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Prior to issuing a license	✓	✓	NC
• Announced	✓	✓	
• Unannounced			
License renewal	✓	✓	NC
• Announced	✓	✓	
• Unannounced			
Routine compliance	✓	✓	NC
• Announced			
• Unannounced	✓	✓	
FREQUENCY OF REQUIRED INSPECTION VISITS BY FACILITY TYPE			
Type	Frequency		
Child care centers	Once a year		
Small FCC homes	Once every 18 months		
Large/group FCC homes	NC		
FREQUENCY OF LICENSE RENEWAL BY FACILITY TYPE			
Type	Frequency		
Child care centers	Once every 3 years		
Small FCC homes	Once every 3 years		
Large/group FCC homes	NC		
REGULATIONS SUMMARY			
Regulations Title			Date
Child care center regulations			
Chapter 388-295 WAC – Minimum Licensing Requirements for Child Care Centers			7/13/2006
Small FCC home regulations			
Chapter 170-296 WAC – Child Care Business Regulations for Family Home Child Care			7/13/2006

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REGULATIONS SUMMARY, CON.		
Regulations Title	Date	
Large/group FCC home regulations		
NC		
<p>Note: NCCIC/NARA used child care licensing regulations that were posted on the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education Web site between January 1, 2006, to December 31, 2007. Regulations titles were also copied directly from this site.</p>		
DEFINITION OF LICENSED FCC HOMES		
Small FCC homes		
Number of children allowed	1–12	
Maximum number of children to 1 provider	See notes*	
Provider's own children counted	Yes	
Maximum number of infants and toddlers to 1 provider	2 younger than 2 years	
Large/Group FCC homes		
Number of children allowed	NC	
Ratio of children to 1 provider	NC	
Provider's own children counted	NC	
CHILD-STAFF RATIOS AND GROUP SIZE BY AGE OF CHILDREN		
Age of Children	Child-Staff Ratio	Group Size
6 weeks	4:1/3:1	8/9
9 months	4:1 or 3:1	8 or 9
18 months	7:1	14
27 months	7:1	14
3 years	10:1	20
4 years	10:1	20
5 years	15:1	30
6 years	15:1	30
7 years	15:1	30
8–9 years	15:1	30
10 years and older	15:1	30

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CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS REQUIRED BY TYPE			
Type	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Criminal history records	✓	✓	NC
Fingerprints	✓	✓	NC
Child abuse and neglect registry	✓	✓	NC
Sex offender registry	✓	✓	NC
Signed statement about criminal status	✓	✓	NC
MINIMUM PRESERVICE QUALIFICATIONS AND ONGOING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS			
Role	Minimum Preservice Qualifications	Ongoing Training Hours	
Child care center staff			
Director	CDA credential	10	
Master teacher	NR	NR	
Teacher	Experience (with high school diploma/GED)	10	
Assistant teacher	No preservice qualifications	0	
Aide	NR	NR	
Small FCC home providers			
Provider	Clock hours in ECE	Unspecified	
Assistant provider	None	Unspecified	
Large/Group FCC home providers			
Provider	NC	NC	
Assistant provider	NC	NC	

Key:

CCP = Certified Child Care Professional Credential awarded by the National Child Care Association
 CDA = Child Development Associate Credential awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition
 ECE = Early childhood education
 FCC = Family child care
 GED = General Educational Development Test
 NA = Not applicable/not addressed
 NAC = National Administrators Credential awarded by the National Child Care Association

NARA = National Association for Regulatory Administration
 NC = No category of facility
 NCCIC = National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center
 NL = Not licensed
 NR = Not regulated
 SAC = School-age children

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***Notes:**

Number of Providers Required	Age Range	Maximum Number of Children Younger Than 2 Years	Maximum Number of Children
A. Licensee	Birth–11 years	2	6
B. Licensee with 1 year experience	2–11 years	None	8
C. Licensee with 1 year experience	5–11 years	None	10
D. Licensee with 1 year experience plus assistant	Birth–11 years	4	9
E. Licensee with 2 years experience and one early care and education (ECE) class	3–11 years	None	10
F. Licensee with 2 years experience and one ECE class plus assistant	Birth–11 years	4	12