
Child Care Advocate Program
Information Bulletin

Basic Licensing Requirements for a Family Child Care Home

Family Child Care is non-medical care and supervision for children, in the caregiver's own home, for periods of less than 24 hours per day.

Facility Types:

- Small Family Child Care Home
- Large Family Child Care Home

Capacity:

The maximum number of children that may be cared for, including the children under 10 who live in the home, is one of the following:

Small Family Child Care Home:

- Four infants only, or six children and no more than three of whom may be infants, or
- Six children, or up to eight children when one child is at least six years of age and one child is enrolled in and attending kindergarten or elementary school and no more than two infants are in care.

Large Family Child Care Home:

- Twelve children, no more than four of whom may be infants, or
- Up to 14 children when one child is at least six years of age and one child is enrolled in and attending kindergarten or elementary school and no more than three infants are in care.
- An Assistant Provider is required in a Large Family Child Care Home when the capacity is over 8.

Staffing:

- Licensee, employees and all adults residing in the home must be fingerprint cleared with the California Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and have a Child Abuse Index check.
- Licensee, employees and all adults residing in the home must have a TB clearance.



- Licensee must have 15 hours of health and safety training approved by the Emergency Medical Services Authority, American Heart Association or American Red Cross. This includes a current pediatric CPR and First Aid certificate. In a Large Family Child Care Home, at least one person must be onsite who has current certificates or cards in pediatric CPR and First Aid.
- An Assistant Provider must be at least 14 years of age. Assistant Providers under 18 years old cannot be left alone with the children.
- Licensee must be present in the home 80% of the time and ensure that the children in care are supervised at all times.

Physical Plant:

- Care provided in primary residence
- Homelike environment
- Home has telephone service
- Stairs fenced or barricaded when children ages 0 to 5 are in care
- Fireplace and heater are screened
- Functioning fire extinguisher rated at least a 2A10BC and smoke detector
- Smoking prohibited on the premises during hours of operation and areas of the home where children are present.
- Detergents, cleaners, medicines and other items which could pose a danger are inaccessible to children.
- Poisons and firearms are in a locked location. Ammunition is stored and locked separately from firearms.
- Swimming pools, hot tubs and spas, and all other bodies of water are inaccessible by a non-climbable, five-foot fence; with a self-latching gate which swings away from the pool, or a locked cover that supports the weight of an adult.
- Direct supervision is always required by the Licensee when no fence is present in the outdoor play area.
- Safe and age-appropriate equipment which is in good repair
- Home kept clean and orderly, with comfortable heating and ventilation
- Isolation area for a child who becomes ill or contagious
- Notification made to the department of proposed changes to existing buildings or grounds

Property Owner/Landlord Notification:

- You must inform your landlord of your decision to operate a Family Child Care Home
- You must obtain consent from your landlord when:
 - You plan to expand your Small Family Child Care Capacity from 6 to 8, or
 - You plan to expand your Large Family Child Care Home capacity from 12 to 14

To apply for a Large Family Child Care Home license, you must:

- Have a least one year of verified experience either as a licensed Small Family Child Care Home provider or as an administrator, director, or teacher at a licensed Child Care Center.
- Secure a fire safety clearance approved by the local fire authority.
- Meet any requirements of the city, county, or any other local ordinances such as a zoning permit and business license.

For further information, please see the Family Child Care Home regulations, Title 22, Division 12, Chapter 3, available at www.cclcd.ca.gov, under the “Tools/Resources” tab.