

State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Arkansas

30% of total points	Score*: 42/140 Rank*: 28
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Number of children in care when state licensing begins:*	6
Inspection or visit before being licensed:	Yes

Supply of FCC Homes in 2008

Number of FCC homes	742
Number of spaces/slots in FCC homes	8,664

Average Price of Child Care in FCC Homes in 2008

For an infant	\$4,642
For a 4-year old	\$4,246

Weaknesses

- Allows providers to care for up to five children for pay without being licensed.
- Check of sex offender registries and juvenile records are not explicitly included in background checks.
- Only requires 10 hours of annual training.
- Providers are required to offer only three of the eight learning activities and literacy opportunities.
- Does not require parents to be given access to provider's homes, and does not have requirements regarding communication with parents, having contracts and informing parent about the use of substitutes.
- Providers are only required to have two of eight learning materials - toys that promote motor development and books for all ages.
- A single provider can care for as many as eight children at one time, including up to five children under 24 months at a time.

Strengths

- Inspects FCC providers before licensing, when there are complaints and at least three times a year.
- Both routine inspections/visits and those conducted when there is a complaint are unannounced.
- Licensed providers, their substitutes and assistants and family members over 12 years are required to have background checks. Exempt providers receiving subsidies are required to have background checks including child abuse and neglect registries.
- Background checks are based on fingerprints and include checks of criminal records and child abuse registries.
- Providers are required to have initial training six of eight specific areas: child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices and CPR.
- Providers must follow nine of the 10 health requirements - handwashing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, and home sanitation.
- Regulations address ALL 10 safety requirements.

Recommendations

- Require providers caring for one or more unrelated children be regulated.
- Use sex offender registries and juvenile records to conduct background checks.
- Increase the required annual training to at least 24 hours.
- Require providers communicate with parents and have written contracts with them. Require providers to allow parent access at all times children are in care and to inform parents when a substitute will be used.
- Require providers to have specific toys and materials to support all areas of development.
- Reduce the total number of children and the number of infants and toddlers a provider can care for at one time.

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Small Family Child Care Standards	
Standards for Ranking	Scores
1. Requires FCC homes to be inspected/visited before being licensed, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.♣	
2. Requires FCC home inspections/visits (routine and when there are complaints) to be unannounced.♣	
3. Requires licensed FCC providers, their substitutes and assistants, family members over 12 years of age, and exempt providers receiving subsidies to have a background check.	
4. Background checks include checks criminal records, juvenile records, child abuse registries and sex offender registries. Checks of federal records are based on fingerprints.	
5. Requires FCC providers to have a high school diploma or GED, and have the CDA■, college courses in ECE○ or an Associate's degree initially or within 3 years of starting to provide child care.	
6. Requires FCC providers to have at least 40 hours of initial training (including CPR and first aid).	
7. Requires FCC providers to have initial training in eight specific areas.⊙	

Small Family Child Care Standards	
Standards for Ranking	Scores
8. Requires FCC providers to have at least 24 hours of annual training (including CPR and first aid renewal).	
9. Requires FCC providers to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents on use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	
10. Requires FCC providers to have toys and materials available in eight different developmental areas.⊞⊞	
11. Requires FCC providers to offer learning opportunities in eight different areas.⊞⊞⊞	
12. Limits the total number of children that can be cared for in a small FCC home based on the ages of children in care.	
13. Addresses 10 critical health areas.⊞⊞⊞⊞	
14. Addresses 10 critical safety issues.⊞⊞⊞⊞⊞	

Key:



*States receive a score of 0 if they do not license small family child care homes. States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect or visit before licensing. States receive a score of 0 if the number of children the provider (including the provider's children) could care for pay is seven or above. The total maximum points a state could receive is 140.

♣Out of 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and the U.S. Department of Defense. ♣To derive the total number of children in care, NACCRRRA started with the number of children in care when state licensing begins. One child was added if the state does not include the provider's own children in establishing its licensing threshold. One child was added for each family exempted before licensing begins. ♣Credit is given for licensing, fire, safety and health inspections. ■Child Development Associate credential. ○Early Childhood Education. ⊙The eight areas of initial training are child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid. ⊞The eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language and literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages and materials that are culturally sensitive. ⊞⊞The eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce mathematical concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills and limit use of television. ⊞⊞⊞The 10 health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health requirements, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care. ⊞⊞⊞⊞The 10 safety areas are: SIDS prevention, discipline/prohibiting corporal punishment, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from swimming pools and other water sources, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state resource and referral and/or state licensing staff and are current as of 2/1/2010. Source for capacity and price information: National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. All capacity and price information reported are 2008 data.