2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Arizona

53	35%	23
Total Score	Total Percentage	Overall Rank

Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: $ 6,550
For a 4-Year-Old: $ 6,200

Type of care reviewed: **Certified Family Child Care Home**
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 5
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
Inspection before being licensed? Yes

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Family child care homes should be inspected before licensing, at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.	◔
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	◑
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	●
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	●

Program Standards	Meets
1. A background check is required for family child care providers, substitutes and assistants, adolescent family members over 12 years of age, and license-exempt providers receiving subsidies.	◔
2. A background check includes using fingerprints to check state and federal records, and check of child abuse registry, sex offender registry, and juvenile records.	◑
3. Family child care providers are required to have a high school degree or GED and have the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree initially or within three years of starting to provide child care.	◔
4. Family child care providers are required to have initial training in child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR and first aid.	◔
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	◑
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	◔

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	●
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	◔
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	●
10. Family child care providers are required to communicate with parents, have contracts with parents, allow parents access to the home, inform parents about the use of substitutes and give written policies to parents.	◔
11. Family child care providers are required to limit total number of children in a small family child care home based on ages of children in care.	○

● Fully Meets ◔ Substantially Meets ◑ Partially Meets ◔ Marginally Meets ○ Does not meet

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Strengths

- All family child care homes are inspected twice a year.
- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- Providers must offer activities addressing all developmental domains.
- Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards. Providers are not required to address universal health precautions.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.

Weaknesses

- Background checks do not require a check of either the sex offender registry or the child abuse registry.
- Providers are required to complete only seven hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only 12 hours of annual training.
- Providers are allowed to care for six infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Background checks should include a check of the sex offender and child abuse registries.
- Increase the initial training requirements for providers to 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including CPR and first aid.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Notes:

The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense (DoD).

States received a score of 0 if they do not regulate small family child care homes (care for up to 6 children) OR if the number of children the provider could care for before licensing, including the provider's own children, is seven or more.

States receive a score of 0 if they do not inspect before licensing. Credit given for inspections by licensing, fire, safety and health authorities.

Eight areas of initial training are: child development, child abuse prevention, learning activities, health and safety, child guidance, business practices, CPR, first aid.

Eight different types of toys and materials include those for: motor development, language/literacy, art, math, science, dramatic play, books for all ages, materials that are culturally sensitive.

Eight types of learning opportunities are: plan a variety of learning activities, read to children, introduce math concepts, offer creative activities, offer dramatic play, offer active play, encourage self-help skills, limit use of television.

Ten health areas are: hand washing, meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic substances, diapering/toileting, home sanitation and weekend/evening care.

Ten safety areas are: SIDS prevention, appropriate discipline, crib safety, electrical hazards, protection from bodies of water, fire drills/emergency plans, outdoor playground surfaces, supervision, door locks/safety gates and transportation. States that permit corporal punishment score a zero in the safety area.

Source for regulatory information: State regulations were reviewed by staff at the National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and by state licensing staff, and are current as of 2/1/2012.

Source for cost of care information: National Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and its members. 2010/2011 data.

Abbreviations: NA: Not Applicable.