

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Iowa

0 (31) Total Score	0% (21%) Total Percentage	43 Overall Rank
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State received a zero due to not requiring an inspection before licensing.

Family Child Care Costs (2010)

For an Infant: \$ 6,500

For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 6,250

Type of care reviewed:

Registered Child Development Homes

Number of children in care when regulation begins: 6

Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? Yes

Inspection before being licensed? No

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

Program Standards	Meets	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.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
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.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
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.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
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.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	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.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	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.	<input type="radio"/>
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>		



Fully Meets



Substantially Meets



Partially Meets



Marginally Meets



Does not meet

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Strengths

- Routine and complaint based inspections are unannounced.

Weaknesses

- The state does not inspect the family child care home before licensing.
- Inspections of family child care homes are only conducted once every two years.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 408 programs.
- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.
- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints.
- Providers are required to complete only five hours of initial training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are required to complete only 12 hours of annual training plus CPR and first aid.
- Providers are not required to offer toys/materials in any developmental domains.
- In planning activities, providers are only required to plan learning activities and offer active play.
- Requirements do not address the following health standards: hand washing, universal health precautions, diapering/toileting and weekend/evening care.
- Requirements do not address the following safety standards: crib safety, outdoor playground surfaces and transportation.
- Providers are allowed to care for four infants and toddlers when older children are present.

Recommendations

- Conduct an initial inspection before licensing.
- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Increase inspections of family child care homes to at least once a year.
- Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.
- Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.
- Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history.
- Increase the annual training requirements for providers to 24 hours, including CPR and first aid renewal.
- Require providers to offer toys and materials in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Require providers to offer learning activities in all of the recommended developmental domains.
- Require providers to address all recommended health standards.
- Require providers to address all recommended safety standards.
- 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.