

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Louisiana

0 Total Score	0% Total Percentage	52 Overall Rank
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Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ NR
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 4,350

Type of care reviewed: Child Day Care Center Class A
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 7
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.	<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 type="radio"/>
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	<input type="radio"/>

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 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 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 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 type="radio"/>
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	<input type="radio"/>
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>

Program Standards	Meets
7. Family child care providers are required to offer activities in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>
8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	<input type="radio"/>
9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	<input 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 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"/>



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Strengths

- None, as Louisiana does not require licensing for small family child care providers.

Weaknesses

- Allows providers to care for up to six children for pay without being licensed.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Require everyone present in a family child care home to undergo a comprehensive background check.
- Introduce inspections for family child care homes at least annually.
- Require family child care providers to complete comprehensive initial training and at least 24 hours annual training.
- Require family child care providers to address all recommended health and safety standards.

State Note: Regulations for large family child care providers, i.e., those caring for seven or more children, are the same as those for child care centers. Licensing is voluntary for small family child care providers. Since Louisiana does not require licensing for small family child care homes, the state received a zero.

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.