

2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in South Carolina

0 (39) Total Score	0% (26%) Total Percentage	41 Overall Rank
State received a zero due to not requiring an inspection before licensing.		

Family Child Care Costs (2010)
For an Infant: \$ 4,550
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 4,100

Type of care reviewed: Registered Family Child Care Homes
Number of children in care when regulation begins: Second Unrelated Family
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? No
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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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"/>
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 checked="" type="radio"/>



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Strengths

- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 50 programs or fewer.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- A comprehensive background check is required for all providers, including the use of fingerprints to check state and federal criminal history databases, and a check of the child abuse registry and a check of the sex offender registry.

Weaknesses

- The state does not inspect the family child care home before licensing/registering.
- Routine monitoring inspections of family child care homes are not required.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are required to complete only two hours of training every year.
- Providers are not required to address any specific developmental domains in toys/materials or learning activities.
- Requirements do not address any of the recommended health or safety standards.
- Requirements do not prohibit corporal punishment.
- Requirements do not specifically address parent involvement, parent access and daily/frequent communication with parents.
- Providers are allowed to care for up to six infants and toddlers without being licensed.

Recommendations

- Require every family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- Conduct an initial inspection before licensing.
- Conduct routine monitoring inspections of family child care homes at least once a year.
- Require providers to have a high school degree/GED and complete a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or higher within three years.
- Require providers to complete 40 hours of comprehensive initial training, including first aid and CPR certification.
- 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 address all of the recommended developmental domains in learning activities.
- Require providers to address all recommended health and safety standards.
- Prohibit corporal punishment under all circumstances.
- Require parent involvement and daily/frequent communication with parents and allow parents unannounced access to the program when their children are present.
- Limit providers to caring for not more than two infants and toddlers when older children are present.

State note: Family child care providers in South Carolina are required to be registered when they care for children from two or more families (2-6 children). They can choose to be licensed. For registered homes, the *Suggested Standards - Guidelines for Operators of Family Child Care Homes Subject to Registration* are voluntary, so these standards were not scored for this report. Registered family child care providers are required to have comprehensive background checks and two hours of training every year. Providers are required to be licensed when they care for seven or more children.

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.