## Child Care Centers in Illinois

### Overall Score: 109/150 (73%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oversight</td>
<td>36/50</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulation</td>
<td>73/100</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Child Care Center Costs in 2009

- **Average annual fees paid for an infant in a center:** $11,353
- **Average annual fees paid for a 4-year-old in a center:** $7,810

### Child Care Center Oversight

#### Benchmarks for Ranking

1. All centers and family child care homes caring for unrelated children for a fee are licensed.
   - [ ] Fully Meets
   - [ ] Substantially Meets
   - [ ] Partially Meets
   - [ ] Marginally Meets
   - [ ] Does not meet
   - [ ] N/A = Not Available

2. Child care centers are inspected at least four times a year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel. Some visits are unannounced.
   - [ ] Fully Meets
   - [ ] Substantially Meets
   - [ ] Partially Meets
   - [ ] Marginally Meets
   - [ ] Does not meet
   - [ ] N/A = Not Available

3. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.
   - [ ] Fully Meets
   - [ ] Substantially Meets
   - [ ] Partially Meets
   - [ ] Marginally Meets
   - [ ] Does not meet
   - [ ] N/A = Not Available

4. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in ECE* or a related field.
   - [ ] Fully Meets
   - [ ] Substantially Meets
   - [ ] Partially Meets
   - [ ] Marginally Meets
   - [ ] Does not meet
   - [ ] N/A = Not Available

5. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents.
   - [ ] Fully Meets
   - [ ] Substantially Meets
   - [ ] Partially Meets
   - [ ] Marginally Meets
   - [ ] Does not meet
   - [ ] N/A = Not Available

### Child Care Center Regulations

#### Benchmarks for Ranking

1. Staff:child ratios are in compliance with NAEYC** accreditation standards.
   -  [ ] Fully Meets
   - [ ] Substantially Meets
   - [ ] Partially Meets
   - [ ] Marginally Meets
   - [ ] Does not meet
   - [ ] N/A = Not Available

2. Group size requirements are in compliance with NAEYC accreditation standards.
   - [ ] Fully Meets
   - [ ] Substantially Meets
   - [ ] Partially Meets
   - [ ] Marginally Meets
   - [ ] Does not meet
   - [ ] N/A = Not Available

3. Center directors are required to have a bachelor’s degree or higher in ECE or a related field.
   - [ ] Fully Meets
   - [ ] Substantially Meets
   - [ ] Partially Meets
   - [ ] Marginally Meets
   - [ ] Does not meet
   - [ ] N/A = Not Available

4. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or an associate degree in ECE or related field.
   - [ ] Fully Meets
   - [ ] Substantially Meets
   - [ ] Partially Meets
   - [ ] Marginally Meets
   - [ ] Does not meet
   - [ ] N/A = Not Available

5. Lead teachers have initial training, including orientation and training in fire safety and other health and safety issues. One staff member on duty must be certified in first aid and CPR.
   - [ ] Fully Meets
   - [ ] Substantially Meets
   - [ ] Partially Meets
   - [ ] Marginally Meets
   - [ ] Does not meet
   - [ ] N/A = Not Available

6. Lead teachers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training.
   - [ ] Fully Meets
   - [ ] Substantially Meets
   - [ ] Partially Meets
   - [ ] Marginally Meets
   - [ ] Does not meet
   - [ ] N/A = Not Available

7. Background checks require use of fingerprints to check state and FBI records and checks of state child abuse registry and sex offender registry.
   - [ ] Fully Meets
   - [ ] Substantially Meets
   - [ ] Partially Meets
   - [ ] Marginally Meets
   - [ ] Does not meet
   - [ ] N/A = Not Available

8. Programs are required to address six developmental domains.***
   - [ ] Fully Meets
   - [ ] Substantially Meets
   - [ ] Partially Meets
   - [ ] Marginally Meets
   - [ ] Does not meet
   - [ ] N/A = Not Available

9. Programs are required to address 10 basic regulations of health and safety standards.****
   - [ ] Fully Meets
   - [ ] Substantially Meets
   - [ ] Partially Meets
   - [ ] Marginally Meets
   - [ ] Does not meet
   - [ ] N/A = Not Available

10. Programs are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate with parents daily or on an ongoing basis and allow parental visits.
    - [ ] Fully Meets
    - [ ] Substantially Meets
    - [ ] Partially Meets
    - [ ] Marginally Meets
    - [ ] Does not meet
    - [ ] N/A = Not Available

### Key

- **Fully Meets**
- **Substantially Meets**
- **Partially Meets**
- **Marginally Meets**
- **Does not meet**
- **N/A = Not Available**

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*Out of 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Department of Defense. *Early childhood education **National Association for the Education of Young Children. ***Six developmental domains are language/literacy, cognitive/intellectual, social, emotional, physical and cultural. ****Ten areas are immunizations, guidance/discipline regulations, diapering and handwashing, fire drills, medication administration, incident reporting, placing infants on backs to sleep, hazardous materials, playground surfaces under outdoor equipment and emergency preparedness.


All WCDB data is sourced from a survey of state licensing directors conducted by the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies in December 2010. Note: Information was also verified against state regulations.
## Strength

- ✓ Routine monitoring inspections are unannounced.
- ✓ Complaint inspections are unannounced.
- ✓ Requires lead teachers in centers to have a state-approved credential.
- ✓ Center staff are required to have initial orientation, fire safety, and other health and safety training. Centers are required to have one first-aid and CPR-certified staff member on premises at all times.
- ✓ Program activities must address all six developmental domains (social, physical, language/literacy, cognitive/intellectual, emotional and cultural).
- ✓ Health and safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards (immunizations, guidance/discipline, diapering/handwashing, fire drills, medicine administration, following safe sleeping practices to prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), emergency preparedness, playground surfaces, hazardous material, and incident reporting.
- ✓ Center staff are required to undergo a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and federal criminal records and checks of child abuse and neglect registry and sex offender registry.
- ✓ Has requirements regarding parent involvement, addresses daily/frequent communication with parents and allows unannounced parent access.
- ✓ Inspection and complaint reports are available online.
- ✓ Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.

## Weakness

- ✗ Child care inspections are only conducted once a year.
- ✗ Center director education requirements do not meet NACCRRA's recommended standard.
- ✗ Center staff are required to complete only 15 hours of annual training.

## Recommendations

- ■ Require every child care center and family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- ■ Increase frequency of inspections of child care centers.
- ■ Require center directors to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.
- ■ Increase the education requirements for lead teachers to a CDA credential or an associate degree in early childhood education.
- ■ Increase the annual training requirements for teachers to 24 hours including CPR and first-aid renewal.