Child Care Centers in South Dakota

Overall Score: 90/150 (60%)

Rank*: 27

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Rank</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oversight</td>
<td>29/50</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regulation</td>
<td>61/100</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>25</td>
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</tbody>
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Child Care Center Costs in 2009

- Average annual fees paid for an infant in a center: N/A
- Average annual fees paid for a 4-year-old in a center: N/A

Child Care Center Oversight

Benchmarks for Ranking

1. All centers and family child care homes caring for unrelated children for a fee are licensed.
2. Child care centers are inspected at least four times a year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel. Some visits are unannounced.
3. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.
4. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in ECE* or a related field.
5. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents.

Child Care Center Regulations

Benchmarks for Ranking

1. Staff:child ratios are in compliance with NAEYC** accreditation standards.
2. Group size requirements are in compliance with NAEYC accreditation standards.
3. Center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in ECE or a related field.
4. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or an associate degree in ECE or related field.
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.
6. Lead teachers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training.
7. Background checks require use of fingerprints to check state and FBI records and checks of state child abuse registry and sex offender registry.
8. Programs are required to address six developmental domains.***
9. Programs are required to address 10 basic regulations of health and safety standards.****
10. Corporal punishment is not allowed.

Key

- Fully Meets
- Substantially Meets
- Partially Meets
- Marginally Meets
- Does not meet


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.
- ✓ 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 five of the six developmental domains.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 50 programs or fewer.
- ✓ Child care licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.

## Weakness

- ✗ Lead teachers in centers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED before working with children.
- ✗ Does not specifically address parent involvement or daily/frequent communication with parents.
- ✗ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.

## Recommendations

- ■ Require every child care center and family child care home caring for one unrelated child or more for pay to be licensed.
- ■ Increase the education requirements for lead teachers to a CDA credential or an associate degree in early childhood education.
- ■ Require parent involvement and daily/frequent communication with parents.
- ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.