

# 2012 State of Small Family Child Care Homes in Texas

<b>0 (15)</b> Total Score	<b>0% (10%)</b> Total Percentage	<b>44</b> Overall Rank
State received a zero due to not requiring an inspection before licensing.		
<b>Family Child Care Costs (2010)</b>		
For an Infant: \$ 6,450		
For a 4-Year-Old: \$ 5,350		

Type of care reviewed: <b>Listed Family Homes</b>
Number of children in care when regulation begins: 1
Provider's children under 12 counted in threshold? ALL CHILDREN COUNTED
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 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 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"/>	8. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 health areas.	<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"/>	9. Family child care providers are required to follow requirements addressing 10 safety areas.	<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"/>	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"/>
5. Family child care providers are required to have 24 hours or more annual training.	<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"/>
6. Family child care providers are required to have toys and materials in eight specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>		



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## Strengths

- None, as Texas does not require listed providers to meet any requirements except a state criminal history check and limits on group size.

## Weaknesses

- The state does not inspect the family child care home before listing or conduct any monitoring inspections.
- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online for listed homes.
- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks do not use fingerprints and do not require a check of either the sex offender registry or the child abuse registry.
- Providers are not required to have a high school degree or GED.
- Providers are not required to complete any initial or annual training.
- Providers are not required to address any 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.
- Providers are allowed to care for three infants and toddlers when older children are present.

## 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.
- Introduce inspections for family child care homes at least annually.
- Require everyone present in a family child care home to undergo a comprehensive background check.
- Require family child care providers to complete comprehensive initial training and at least 24 hours annual training.
- Require providers to address all recommended health and safety standards.

State Note: In Texas, the lowest category of regulation required for all providers is "listed care." All providers caring for one to three children are required to be listed with the Department of Family and Protective Services and to undergo a background check. Providers are required to be licensed when they care for four or more children.

### 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.