

Indicators of High Quality Child Care

State licensing and program accreditation

The requirements for licensing generally ensure basic health and safety of a program but not necessarily high quality; state licensing requirements can be found online at <http://nrc.uchsc.edu>

Staff-to-child ratio and group size

For center

Birth to 12 mo

1:3 with groups ≤ 6

13-30 mo

1:4 with groups ≤ 8

31-35 mo

1:5 with groups ≤ 10

3 y

1:7 with groups ≤ 14

4 and 5 y

1:8 with groups ≤ 16

Family child care

If there are no children < 2 y: 1 adult / 6 children; when there is 1 child < 2 y: 1 adult / 4 children; and when there are 2 children < 2 y (the maximum), no other children are recommended

Director and staff experience and training

College degrees in early childhood education

Child development associate's credential

Ongoing inservice training

Parent's first-hand observations of care

Low turnover rate

Infection Control

Hand-washing with soap and running water after diapering, before handling food, and when contaminated by body fluids

Children wash hands after toileting and before eating

Routinely cleaned facilities, toys, equipment

Up-to-date immunizations of staff and children

Emergency procedures

Written policies

All staff and children familiar with procedures

Up-to-date parent contact lists

Injury prevention

Play equipment safe, including proper shock-absorbing materials under climbing toys

Universal Back-to-Sleep practices

Developmentally appropriate toys and equipment

Toxins out of reach

Safe administration of medicines

Reference

Fiene R. *13 Indicators of Quality Child Care: Research Update*. Washington, DC: Department of Health & Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation; 2002