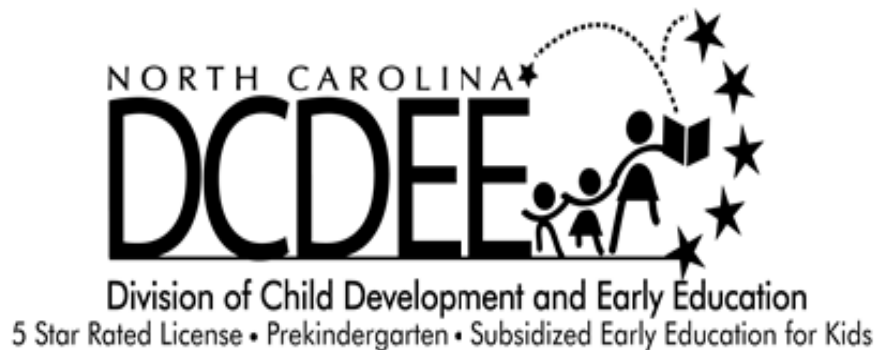


CHILD CARE CENTERS

BASIC INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL PROVIDERS



**North Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Child Development and Early Education**

November 2015

Thank you for your interest in providing quality child care. You have begun the complex project of planning a community wide service to children and families that will make a lasting impression. By starting a child care center, you are promoting early learning and development in young children and contributing to the economic growth of North Carolina. The materials in this packet have been designed to help you.

North Carolina's child care law identifies two types of regulated child care arrangements according to the maximum number of children that may be in care at one time. The term "home" is used for a smaller program usually located in a family residence. The two types of programs and the maximum number of children for each are as follows:

TYPE OF ARRANGEMENT	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CHILDREN
Child Care Centers	
Licensed for 3-12 children (located in a residence)	15*
Center (not located in a residence)	Depends on space available

*The most number of preschool children allowed in a Center in Residence is 12. Local ordinances and zoning may further restrict the number of children allowed to be cared for in a residence.

What is a child care center?

A child care center is a program where three or more children less than 13 years old receive care on a regular basis of at least once a week for more than four hours from persons not related to the children in care.

What is a center in residence?

A Center in Residence (CIR) is a child care center located in a residence and licensed for 3 - 12 children unless space limits the number. A Center in Residence must comply with most of the Child Care Center requirements. The differences between a CIR and a Child Care Center are:

- A CIR must be located in an occupied residence.
- An administrator is not required for a CIR.
- A CIR is not required to have defined activity areas.
- A CIR has the Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale conducted versus the other environmental rating scales.
- The safe arrival and departure statement is not required to be posted in a CIR.
- A current menu does not have to be posted in a CIR.
- An infant feeding schedule does not have to be posted in a CIR.

This packet is intended for those who are considering operating a child care center or a center in residence. As in any other business, when deciding whether or not to open a child care center, the potential provider must determine the market for the service and consider if the resources are available to develop and operate the enterprise.

BASIC INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL PROVIDERS

The first task is researching the need for service in your community which is critical to success. Having a “feeling” about what is needed cannot substitute for having the facts. Relevant information about your target population is the basis for deciding the number and ages of children for which to design the center, as well as the location. For the typical child care center, you will be looking for parents of preschool-age children who are working and can afford child care. City and county offices, the local Chamber of Commerce, and public schools can usually supply some of the data you will need.

Once you know about the potential customers for your center, you must then determine whether you will be able to put together everything that is needed to make the business work. Plan carefully. Expenses that are not anticipated or are underestimated can spell disaster. We have included a budget guide that lists all the usual expenditures one might encounter when opening a child care facility. Information about the licensing requirements is also included. Licensing requirements, such as staff qualifications, space requirements and equipment requirements can have a major impact on budgeting.

Particular attention should be given to the center site. Center site is a factor of primary importance to the success of the operation, and is usually a major expense that involves a long-term commitment. Many consumer studies have found that convenience, in addition to the quality of care, is the basis for parents’ selection of a child care placement for their child. No matter how well you plan and provide the children’s program of care, you may have a very hard time keeping full enrollment. The location needs to be “good for business”. The best location is usually one near where your customer target group lives or one which is easily accessible on the parents’ way to work. The site must also be suitable for child care and affordable. Never commit yourself to any site until you have worked out both your development and operating budgets. You should also be certain that the building is practical and will pass the required inspections. A copy of the inspection reports, which are completed on every child care center, is included to help you assess possible sites. Materials on site selection and obtaining a building are also included.

After completing the planning process, review the “Questionnaire for Potential Child Care Operators”, to help you decide if you are ready to open a child care center. You are also required to attend a pre-licensing workshop before receiving a license. In this workshop, you will have a chance to discuss the steps in both planning a center and obtaining a license. A list of scheduled workshops and a registration form are included in this packet for your convenience.

Good luck to you in planning your child care operation. The Division of Child Development and Early Education will be happy to answer any questions about the materials in this packet and provide additional information you need along the way.

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OVERVIEW OF LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILD CARE CENTERS

The information contained in this publication is not a complete description of the standards required for licensure of a child care center. It is intended to assist you in assessing the feasibility of operating a center by highlighting certain requirements which have a direct bearing on the resources needed. Refer to this information as you plan for personnel, building, equipment, supplies, etc.

Licensed Capacity/Attendance

- No center may be licensed for more children than the primary space used by the children can accommodate at 25 square feet per child. Local zoning ordinances may place more stringent limitations on capacity.
- Subject to the space limitation cited above, a center licensed for 3-12 children in a residence may be licensed to provide care to no more than 12 children when any child present is of preschool age or no more than 15 children when all children are school age.
- All children in the center are counted except the provider's own school-age children.
- The number of children present in any center may not exceed the licensed capacity nor may the number of children present in any room exceed the number that room can accommodate at 25 square feet per child.

Staff/Child Ratios and Supervision

Children must be supervised at all times. Staff should hear or see children at all times in order to permit individuals with hearing and visual impairments to be counted in ratio. Additional stipulations outlining adequate supervision in Child Care Rule 10A NCAC 09 .0714(f) were added as follows:

- (1) Staff must be positioned in the indoor and outdoor environment to maximize their ability to hear or see the children at all times and render immediate assistance.
- (2) Staff must interact with the children while moving about the indoor or outdoor area.
- (3) Staff must know where each child is located and be aware of children's activities at all times.
- (4) Staff must provide supervision appropriate to the individual age, needs and capabilities of each child.
- (5) All of the conditions in this Paragraph shall apply except when emergencies necessitate that direct supervision is impossible for brief periods of time. Documentation of emergencies shall be maintained and available for review by Division representatives upon request.

An emergency is defined as an unexpected, sudden, and urgent event that involves the need/s of a child or children in care that must be dealt with immediately. Nothing contained in this Rule shall be construed to prevent a qualified person with a disability from working in a licensed child care facility.

- Maximum group size will vary depending on the age of the child, but will never exceed 25 children. (See ratios on the next page).
- If only one caregiver is required to meet the staff/child ratio, and children less than two years of age are in care, the caregiver must not concurrently perform food preparation or other duties which are not direct child care responsibilities.
- When children are taken off the premises, staff must take with them a list of all children in the group.
- When there is a multi-age group, the staff/child ratio for the youngest child in the group must be maintained for the entire group.
- In centers licensed for 30 or more children, staff members and administrators counted in meeting the staff/child ratio must not concurrently perform food preparation or other duties which are not direct child care responsibilities unless only one caregiver is required to meet the staff/child ratio and no children less than two years of age are in care.

Ratios by center type and size:

- For child care centers **licensed for 3-12 children in a residence**, the ratios are as follows:

<u>Ages of Children</u>	<u>Minimum Staff Child Ratio</u>	<u>Additional Number of School-Aged Children Allowed</u>
0 to 12 months	1/5	3
12 to 24 months	1/6	2
2 to 13 years	1/10	0
3 to 13 years	1/12	0
All school-aged	1/15	0

- For child care centers **licensed for fewer than 30 children**, the ratios and maximum group sizes are as follows:

<u>Ages of Children</u>	<u>Minimum Staff Child Ratio</u>	<u>Maximum Group Size</u>
0 to 12 months	1/5	10
12 to 24 months	1/6	12
2 to 3 years	1/10	20
3 to 5 years	1/15	25
5 years and older	1/25	25

- For child care centers **licensed for 30 or more children**, the ratios and maximum group sizes are as follows:

<u>Ages of Children</u>	<u>Minimum Staff Child Ratio</u>	<u>Maximum Group Size</u>
0 to 12 months	1/ 5	10
12 to 24 months	1/6	12
2 to 3 years	1/10	20
3 to 4 years	1/15	25
4 to 5 years	1/20	25
5 years and older	1/25	25

Preservice Requirements for Staff

All Staff

- All persons must obtain medical exams, tests showing each to be free of active TB, annual medical statements or health questionnaires, and emergency medical information.
- North Carolina law requires that all persons must complete a criminal records check prior to the 1st day of employment. The potential operator must follow the preservice requirements and the comprehensive background check. This information must be submitted to the Division of Child Development and Early Education.

On-Site Administrator (director)

If the on-site administrator has not yet obtained the NC Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent, he/she must meet the following pre-service requirements regarding education/experience in early childhood education:

They must be at least 21 years of age and have a high school diploma or its equivalent and have <u>ONE</u> of the following:	
A) two years of full-time child care experience in a child care center or early childhood work experience	B) an undergraduate, graduate, or associate degree, with at least 12 semester hours in child development, child psychology, early childhood education or a directly related field
C) a Child Development Associate Credential	D) completion of a community college curriculum program in the area of child care or early childhood
E) one year of full-time verifiable child care or early childhood work experience and a North Carolina Early Childhood Credential	

The on-site administrator must **also** meet **one** of the following pre-service requirements regarding education/experience in administration:

A) verification of having successfully completed two semester hours or 32 clock hours of training in the area of early childhood program administration	B) verification of being currently enrolled in two semester hours or 32 clock hours of training in the area of early childhood program administration
C) one year experience performing administrative responsibilities	

The on-site administrator must obtain the North Carolina Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent. Child care administrators must begin working toward the completion of the North Carolina Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent within six months after assuming administrative duties and must complete the credential or its equivalent within two years after beginning work. Administrators of centers licensed for 3-12 children in a residence are exempt from meeting this requirement but must obtain the NC Early Childhood Credential (NCECC) or its equivalent.

A person meeting the qualifications for administrator must be on site at each center for a minimum number of hours (varying with center size) each week.

Lead Teachers and Teachers

Lead teachers and teachers without a NC Early Childhood Credential or its equivalent must meet the following pre-service requirements:

They must be 18 and have a HS diploma or its equivalent and have <u>ONE</u> of the following:	
A) One year of experience in a center or two years of experience in a family child care home	B) Completed a two-year Child Care Occupational Home Economics course in high school
C) Complete 20 clock hours of training in child development within the first 6 months of employment <i>(This is in addition to annual in-service training hours. Credential coursework could be counted).</i>	

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In addition to the preservice requirements, all **lead teachers** must obtain at least a NCECC or its equivalent as determined by the Department. Lead teachers must be enrolled in the credential coursework or its equivalent within six months after becoming employed as a lead teacher and must complete the credential or its equivalent within eighteen months after enrollment.

There must be a lead teacher assigned to work with each group of children. A lead teacher can only be responsible for one group of children at a time. Each group of children must have a lead teacher present for 2/3 of the operating day.

Aide

This person must be at least 16 years of age and literate.

Support Staff (drivers, food handlers, substitutes)

These persons must meet basic requirements, such as age and license or certification, according to their responsibilities.

Staff Development/Training

📖 Staff who have successfully completed a course in basic first aid within the last three years must be present when children are in care. The number of staff required to complete the course is based on the number of children present in the center as shown in the following chart:

<u>Number of children present</u>	<u>Number of staff trained in first aid required</u>
1-29	1 staff
30-79	2 staff
80 and above	3 staff

📖 At least one staff person must be knowledgeable of and able to recognize common symptoms of illness.

📖 At least one person who is certified to provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation appropriate for the ages of children in care must be present on the premises at all times.

📖 In centers licensed to care for infants 12 months and younger, the center director and any child care providers scheduled to work in the infant room, including volunteers counted in staff/child ratios, must complete the ITS-SIDS training. Training must be completed within four months of the individual assuming responsibility. ITS-SIDS training must be retaken every three years.

📖 Staff must complete at least four clock hours of training in safety. In centers licensed for less than 30 children, at least one staff person must complete this training. In centers licensed for 30 or more children, at least two staff, including the administrator must complete this training.

📖 All staff who will be in contact with children must receive at least sixteen hours of a prescribed course of orientation within the first six weeks of employment. A specific six of those hours of orientation must be completed within the first two weeks of employment.

📖 All staff responsible for planning or supervising the program and all staff working directly with the children must receive in-service training. In-service training should be selected according to each person’s job-related needs. The amount of in-service training required varies with the person’s educational level, professional experience and prior training.

Building

- At least 25 square feet of indoor space per child is required.
- At least 75 square feet of fenced outdoor play space per child is required.
- The building must meet current building, sanitation, and fire code requirements and be located in an area free of hazards.
- Centers may use domestic kitchen equipment if it meets heating, cooling, and storing requirements as determined by the Division of Environment and Natural Resources.
- Plans and specifications for new construction or modifications to any existing or proposed child care centers must be submitted to the local health department and building inspector for review and approval prior to beginning construction. A floor plan must also be submitted to the Division of Child Development and Early Education child care consultant.
- The outdoor play area must be free of equipment, litter, animals or other objects that may be hazardous to the children.
- Playground equipment must meet all applicable requirements.

Equipment and Furnishings

- An adequate supply of diapers, clean linens, and an individual bed, cot or mat for each child must be provided.
- Child-size furnishings must be provided and kept in good repair.
- The practice of specific safety precautions is required in the center.
- Hazardous items, materials, and equipment may be used by children only under adult supervision.
- Firearms and other weapons on the premises must be secured so that they are inaccessible to the children.
- There must be a working telephone on the premises, which is always accessible to caregiving staff.

Nutrition

- Nutritious meals and snacks which contain the food groups outlined in the Meal Patterns for Children in Child Care must be provided.
- The number and size of servings must be appropriate for the age and developmental level of the child.
- Arrangements must be made for special diets.
- Menus must be planned a week in advance and posted.
- Individual written feeding schedules must be followed for children under 15 months of age.

Caregiving Requirements

All Children

- For each group of children, there must be a schedule posted for easy reference by staff and parents which shows the usual routine of care and the time periods assigned to different activities.
- The schedule must indicate a balance between active play and quiet times or rest.
- The activities and the times allotted for them must be appropriate for the ages of the children present.
- The schedule must be followed in a way that allows flexibility to meet children's individual needs.
- There must be a written plan, available to parents and caregivers, which shows the activities available to the children in care.
- Centers must have a plan for each group of children.
- The plan must reflect that the children have at least four different activities in which they may choose to participate on a daily basis.
- Each child must have the opportunity for outdoor play on a daily basis, weather permitting.

Infants and Toddlers (children under 2 years of age)

- There must be developmentally appropriate toys and activities for each child in care.
- Each child must eat, sleep, play, and be diapered according to his own needs, and be toilet trained according to his individual readiness.
- A safe, clean, uncluttered area must be available for infants to crawl or creep and for toddlers to move around.
- The caregivers must interact in a positive manner with each child every day.
- A caregiver or team of caregivers must be assigned to each infant or toddler as the primary caregiver.
- Children must be held for bottle feeding until the child can hold his own bottle.
- Children twelve months of age and younger must have daily opportunities for “tummy-time” to play while on their stomachs.

Preschool Children (children at least two years old and older)

- * Equipment and materials must be available in activity areas on a daily basis. Centers licensed for 3-12 children in a residence are not required to have activity areas, but must have equipment and materials available daily for the children in care.
- Each activity area must contain enough materials for three related activities to occur at the same time. The materials must be in sufficient quantity to allow at least three children to use the area regardless of whether the children choose the same or different activities.
- Centers with a capacity of 30 or more children must have at least four activity areas available in the space occupied by each group of children.
- Centers with a capacity of less than 30 children must have at least four activity areas available, but they may be shared by different groups of children.
- At least four of the following activity areas must be available every day to preschool children:
 - a) Art and other creative play
 - b) Children’s books
 - c) Blocks and block building accessories
 - d) Manipulative materials
 - e) Family living and dramatic play

The fifth activity area must be rotated in at least once per month

Equipment for music and rhythm activities, science and nature activities, and sand and water play must be available to the children at least once a month.

School-Age Children (children five years and older who are attending or have attended school or kindergarten)

- School-age components that operate for three or fewer hours a day must make at least three activities available daily; those operating for more than three hours per day must make at least four activities available daily.
- Age appropriate activities for school-age children include: outdoor play, arts and crafts, block play, books and language, carpentry, community awareness, creative art, cultural studies, family living and dramatic play, environmental studies, field trips, food experiences, games for individuals and small groups, health and safety, life-related chores, money-making projects, music, rhythm and creative movement, number concepts, problem solving, sand and water play, science and nature, self help skills, and sewing.

Transportation

- Written permission for transporting a child must be obtained from the parent or guardian.
- Vehicles must meet and be maintained according to N. C. inspection standards.
- Liability insurance is required.
- All persons in the vehicle must use seat belts or appropriate child passenger restraint devices.
 1. Safe procedures for pickup and delivery of children must be followed.
 2. The required staff/child ratio must be maintained in vehicles.
 3. The driver must have a valid driver's license of the type required for a vehicle of the size used to transport children.
 4. Children may not occupy the front seat of a vehicle if there is an operational passenger side airbag.

Discipline

- No corporal punishment is allowed except in religious-sponsored centers operating under the provisions of G.S. 110-106.
- Discipline may in no way be related to food, rest, or toileting.
- Children may never be locked up.
- Discipline may never be delegated to another child.
- The center's discipline policy must be provided in writing to parents.

Records

Children

Each child in care must have a file containing the following information:

- A completed application for enrollment
- A medical exam report
- Immunization record
- Signed statement that the parent or guardian received a copy of the center discipline policy
- Documentation of Receipt of Summary of Child Care Law
- Travel and Activity Authorization form.
- Instructions from the parent or physician when medicine is to be administered
- Infant feeding schedule for any child up to 15 months old (if applicable)
- Documentation of the Receipt of Safe Sleep Policy on file on or before first day of enrollment of a child 12 months of age or younger.

Staff

- An application for employment
- Medical report and/or questionnaires
- Negative TB test result
- Emergency information on staff
- Documentation of staff orientation
- Documentation of in-service training
- Documentation of CPR/ First Aid certification, Playground Safety training, ITS-SIDS training (if applicable) and BSAC training (if applicable)
- Copy of criminal history record check

Center

- An evacuation plan and fire drill records.
- Attendance records
- An incident report (completed when a child is injured while in the care of the center and must seek medical attention) and incident log
- Monthly outdoor safety inspections
- Safe Sleep policy if licensed for infants 12 months of age and younger.
- Center Emergency Care plan

Annual Licensing Fees

Child care centers are required to pay an annual licensing fee, based on the permit capacity of the center. The fee applies to all centers except for those operating under the provisions of General Statute 110-106, which is a religiously operated center, and publicly operated centers. The license fee is an annual charge to maintain a child care license for providing child care. The amount of the fee is based on the licensed capacity indicated on the permit (child care license).

Capacity of Center	Maximum Fee
12 or fewer children	\$52.00
13-50 children	\$187.00
51-100 children	\$375.00
101 or more children	\$600.00

Licensing fee invoices are mailed out in October. The licensing fee is based on the licensed capacity of the center as of October 1st. Failure to pay the annual license fee may result in the revocation of your child care license.

Compliance History

Prior to the issuance of an initial license, a center shall comply with all minimum child care requirements. To maintain a license, a child care center must maintain a compliance history of 75 % or higher as assessed by the Division. The Division shall assess compliance history of a child care center by evaluating the violations of requirements that have occurred over the previous 18 months or during the length of time the center has been operating, whichever is less.

Voluntary Enhanced Standards

Child care centers that meet all the minimum requirements will receive a one star license at the end of the six month temporary time period. Operators can apply for a two through five star license if they choose to meet higher standards. Star licenses are determined based upon the number of points achieved in two separate components:

- ★ PROGRAM STANDARDS
- ★ EDUCATION STANDARDS

There is a range of 1 through 7 points available in each component. The more items the center has achieved, the higher number of points the center will receive in the component.

- ★ In *program standards*, a center would achieve more points if staff/child ratios were decreased, square footage available for each child was increased, operational policies were developed and environment rating scale assessments were completed.
- ★ A center having an administrator and caregivers with higher educational levels would receive more points in *education standards*.
- ★ A program may also choose to meet the requirements of a quality point and receive one additional point toward their star-rated license.

The points achieved in each of the above areas would then be calculated to determine the number of stars that the center is eligible to receive on their license. Centers that only meet minimum licensing requirements and do not apply for a rated license will receive 1 star on their license. Centers meeting voluntarily higher standards will receive from 2 – 5 stars on their license, based on the number of points achieved in each of the areas described above.

RELIGIOUS-SPONSORED CENTERS

In North Carolina, religious-sponsored child care centers (those operated by a church or school of religious charter) that meet the definition of child care must be regulated by the Division of Child Development and Early Education. North Carolina General Statute 110-106 allows these types of centers the option of being issued a license or a notice of compliance. If a religious-sponsored child care center elects to be licensed, they must be in compliance with all of the child care licensing requirements. If the center elects to operate under the provisions of GS 110-106, they will meet all other child care requirements and be issued a "Notice of Compliance."

How to apply to operate a religious-sponsored child care center:

1. At least 30 days prior to the first day of operation, the prospective operator shall send a **"Letter of Intent"** to the Regulatory Services Section of the Division of Child Development and Early Education. This letter shall include:
 - Name of Operation/Church Sponsor
 - Address of Operator/Church
 - Telephone Number of Operator/Church
 - Proposed Name of Center
 - Address of Center
 - Telephone Number of Center
 - Proposed Number of Children
 - Proposed Age Range of Children
 - Scheduled Opening Date of Center
2. The Division shall send the prospective operator a Response Letter after the Letter of Intent is received. The Division will advise the operator of the applicable requirements, procedures, and date that they may begin operation. Also included with the Response Letter will be a contact name, address and phone number, and some of the forms that will need to be completed.
3. A religious-sponsored center may begin operating as of the date listed in the Response Letter sent to the operator from the Division. The center will receive a visit from a child care consultant who will inform them of what will be necessary to be in compliance with all applicable requirements.
4. The pastor or his/her designee, such as a Board Member, Associate Pastor, or Youth Pastor who serves in an official church business capacity, must complete the two-day Pre-Licensing Workshop within 30 days of when the program begins operation. In addition to the pastor or his/her designee attending the Workshop, the Division recommends that the administrator of the program, also, complete the Workshop. The administrator of the child care program cannot be considered a pastor appointed designee.

Centers operating under the provisions of G.S. 110-106 must be in compliance with all of the child care licensing requirements except:

Rule Numbers	Topic
.0505 through .0511(a) and Rule .2508	Written schedules, lesson plans, and activity areas
.0704	Preservice requirements for Administrators
.0707 through .0711	Preservice requirements for Lead teachers, Teachers and Aides and in-service training requirements for all staff
.0714(a) through (d)	Other general staffing requirements
.1801(b)	Corporal Punishment
.2510(b), (c), and (f)	Staff qualifications for school-age staff

Change of Ownership Processing Timeline and Important Information

A Change of Ownership occurs when the person or entity held legally responsible for the child care business changes. An owner is defined as any person with a 5% or greater equity interest in a child care facility. Any change that involves 5% or greater equity interest in the facility is considered an ownership change. The following information outlines the steps that occur with an ownership change:

Step 1. Notification

- Change of Ownership form requested by the current owner (seller) from DCDEE Consultant
- Top half of the Change of Ownership form completed by seller, and signature notarized
- Bottom half of Change of Ownership form completed by new owner (buyer), and signature notarized
- Buyer sends Change of Ownership form in triplicate to DCDEE Consultant no less than 30 days prior to transfer of ownership

Step 2. Application

- Buyer contacted by DCDEE Consultant
- Application packet mailed to buyer by DCDEE Consultant
- Buyer completes Application-Facility Profile forms. Indicate type of business organization on the form. If the type of business operation requires registering with the N.C. Secretary of State's office, move forward with that process. Being in "good standing" with that office will be verified by the DCDEE Consultant, prior to the issuance of a Temporary License.
- Buyer submits Application-Facility Profile forms in triplicate to DCDEE Consultant and if applicable, a copy of any building lease

Step 3. Review

- Application paperwork reviewed by DCDEE Consultant
- Education and Experience of the Administrator verified
- Business status with the Secretary of State's Office checked by DCDEE Consultant, if applicable
- Buyer notified by DCDEE Consultant if any additional forms or information required

Step 4. Issuance of a Temporary License

- DCDEE Consultant schedules Rules Review with buyer and designees
- Temporary License issued to new owner (buyer); license of current owner (seller) terminated

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING A CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

- 1) The *Change of Owner* form confirms the current operator's intent to sell his/her business and the prospective buyer's intent to purchase it. This is a legal document and should contain accurate information.
- 2) In the section that asks for the date of sale/purchase, both the seller and the buyer must list the same date. This date must be the date of actual transfer of ownership of the child care business (usually closing date with attorneys).
- 3) The *Change of Owner* form must be received at least 30 days prior to the official date of ownership transfer in order to complete the required process for a change of ownership. The DCDEE Consultant must be notified immediately, if the date of ownership transfer changes.
- 4) If the current owner [seller] should close the center and/or relinquish financial responsibility prior to a license being issued to the new owner [buyer], the facility will no longer be eligible for processing as a Change of Ownership. The new owner will have to apply and the Application-Facility Profile will be processed according to the Division's procedures for **new** facilities.
- 5) The 30 day processing period will not begin until the *Change of Owner* form is received by the DCDEE Consultant.
- 6) Once the transfer of ownership occurs and all necessary paperwork is received by the DCDEE Consultant, the new owner [buyer] will be issued a Temporary License that will be effective for six (6) months.
- 7) During the six (6) month Temporary License Time Period, the new owner will be responsible for obtaining new Building, Fire, and Sanitation Inspections for the center. This may mean bringing the building into compliance with the current codes in each of these areas, regardless of the center's current operational status. Failure of the new owner to submit the three (3) approved inspection reports by the end of the Temporary License Time Period could result in issuance of a Provisional License or Denial of a License.
- 8) Since a new license will be issued to the new owner of the child care facility, check with any funding agencies providing tuition assistance or child care subsidy for currently enrolled children for information on how their assistance may be affected. Financial assistance vouchers for currently enrolled children do not automatically transfer to the new owner.
- 9) At the end of the six (6) month Temporary License Time Period, the center may be issued a license, based on eligibility at that time and applying for a Star Rated License. The star rating that the facility held under the previous owner does not transfer to the new owner.

PLANNING FOR SUCCESS IN CHILD CARE

“Loving children” is not enough to guarantee success in operating a child care center. A businesslike approach to operating a center will enhance your likelihood of success. Outlined below are some major steps you can take which will help your child care business.

Assess Community Child Care Needs

How can you find out if more child care is needed in your area? Getting answers to these questions can help.

- How many children live in your community?
- Are there a large number of families where both parents work?
- Are there a lot of single parents?
- How many child care facilities are already in operation?
- Where are they located?
- Do existing facilities have waiting lists?
- In what age groups is the demand for child care the greatest?
- What is the growth potential for child care services?

Determine What Kind of Center You Want

When deciding about the kind of center you will operate, consider the following:

- How large will the center be?
- Will the center be located in your home or in a separate location?
- Will you build a new building or renovate an existing structure?
- What are the ages of the children you will serve?
- How many people will be needed to staff the center?
- How and where will meals and snacks be prepared?
- Will you serve specialized groups such as infants and toddlers or children with special needs?

Explore One or More Potential Sites Suitable for Child Care

When comparing potential sites the following questions should be considered:

- What are the traffic patterns in the area?
- What would be the cost of renovations or improvements to meet inspection requirements?
- What is the potential for passing building, fire and sanitation inspections?
- Is there outdoor space available for a fenced playground?
- What is the moral environment of the neighborhood?
- What are the sizes of the rooms and where are the exits located?
- What are the zoning ordinances for the sites you are considering? (You may check zoning regulations by contacting city offices or town halls. In rural areas, contact the county administrative offices.)

Review Building, Fire and Sanitation Forms

Buildings used for child care must pass all inspections before a license can be issued. When looking at a building check the items on the forms to determine the potential for passing the inspections. Note the following considerations:

BASIC INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL PROVIDERS

- Be sure to get answers to any questions regarding building a new center or renovating an existing structure from local building, fire and sanitation inspectors. There may be local requirements in addition to the state requirements.
- Not all buildings are suitable for child care. The interior layout of a building may prove to be poorly suited for use as child care space. Indoor space arrangements determine the size of groups and numbers of children in each room or “space”. This, in turn, determines the number of staff needed for each classroom. The layout or floor plan, position of exits, windows, bathrooms and kitchen determine the suitability of a building. If you are planning to build a center, you have the opportunity to design a building specifically for child care use.
- The licensed capacity, whether the building is newly constructed or renovated, and the ages of children in care determine the building and sanitation code requirements that must be met.

Consider the Major Child Care Licensing Requirements

Child care is a service business that is monitored by the Division of Child Development and Early Education. Before committing time, money, and energy to a child care business, it is important to understand the law and rules that apply. Consider the following:

- The owner/operator is responsible for compliance with all state laws, rules and local ordinances that apply to the operation of a child care center.
- Child development principles and developmentally appropriate programming are the basis for meeting the child care requirements.
- Managing children’s behavior in a positive way is an important component of a center’s program.
- Keeping a center safe and healthy for children requires continuous effort by staff and owners/operators.

Identify the Financial, Business and Human Resources Needed to Operate a Child Care Center

- You will need both start-up and operating capital. Are these funds available?
- Using a budget guide or a business plan will help give a realistic estimate of costs.
- Determine if potential child care staff are available for employment. Child care center operators and their staff must meet age, education and experience requirements. No one who has been convicted of child abuse or neglect may work in child care. Staff must be U. S. citizens or lawfully authorized alien workers.
- Determine the fees that must be charged to cover estimated operating expenses. Ask yourself the question: Could this center be competitive in my area?
- Explore program and equipment needs of various ages of children in group care.
- Determine type of liability insurance coverage recommended for your center.

Deciding Whether You Want to Proceed with Obtaining a License

- Have you done your homework?
- Have you carefully considered all the issues involved in establishing a center?
- Have you done the necessary preparations to arrive at the appropriate decision?
- Have you reviewed all pertinent materials?

CHILD CARE BUDGET GUIDE

Estimated Expenses		
TYPE	Monthly Operations	Start-Up
A) Personnel <i>Director, caregivers, cook, driver, bookkeeper, secretary, janitor substitutes</i>	\$	
B) Fringe Benefits <i>Social security, federal unemployment, state unemployment, workman's compensation, health insurance</i>	\$	
C) Staff Development <i>Professional journals, books, courses, workshops, orientation materials, travel</i>	\$	\$
D) Center <i>Deposits, down payments, rent, mortgage payment, utility connections fee, utilities, renovation, fencing, maintenance, repair, janitorial supplies, furniture (children's and adult), outdoor play equipment, kitchen appliances, annual license fee</i>	\$	\$
E) Food Service <i>Food, kitchen equipment, small appliances, cups/plates</i>	\$	\$
F) Program Supplies <i>books, toys/equipment, music equipment, games, art supplies</i>	\$	\$
G) Transportation of children <i>Vehicle payments, gas, maintenance, repairs, license fee, inspection fee</i>	\$	\$
H) Administrative Expenses <i>Permits, licenses, audit, typing, office supplies, postage, printing, copying, advertising, property insurance, vehicle insurance, liability insurance, property tax, income tax, travel</i>	\$	\$
I) Parent Involvement <i>Parent handbook, meetings, newsletter</i>	\$	\$
J) Miscellaneous Expenses	\$	\$
TOTAL	\$	\$
Estimated Income		
TYPE	Monthly	Start-Up
A) Fees for caregiving/tuition	\$	
B) Fees for registration or enrollment	\$	
C) Fees for transportation	\$	
D) Fees for special lessons or services	\$	\$
<i>*estimates for fees should allow for slow initial enrollment and continuing under enrollment</i>		
E) Other income <i>Child and Adult Care Food Program, donations, fund raising activities, grants, cash on hand, loans</i>	\$	\$
TOTAL	\$	\$

TAXES AND RECORDS

An important concern for the manager of any new business is setting up an appropriate record keeping system. Records of income, expense, assets, etc. are the basis for figuring profit or loss, making decisions about what fees to charge, and calculating allowable tax deductions. The advice that follows is based on 1989 federal tax requirements and is directed to persons who will be operating a child care home or center as a sole proprietorship (an individual). Partnerships and corporations require more complex bookkeeping systems and reports. Such organizations should obtain the services of a professional accountant to organize their systems. At the end of this article is a resource listing of services and publications provided by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in which the details of subjects only briefly addressed here are fully explained. We recommend that you take advantage of the publications and education programs available from the IRS.

Business Organization and Income Taxes

Whether your business is organized as a sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation determines the kind of income tax reporting that is required. A sole proprietorship is an arrangement in which you are “the business”. Almost all family child care homes and many centers are operated by individuals on this basis. In a sole proprietorship, business income is reported only by the individual on his/her personal income tax return (using Schedule C). In partnerships and corporations, the business files an income tax return of its own.

Identification Number

If you operate your child care business as a sole proprietorship and have no employees, you will use your own Social Security number on tax forms and receipts. If you employ anyone, or if the business is organized as a partnership or corporation, you will need to obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN). The EIN is used in filing tax and information returns and on receipts you give parents for their fees. To apply for an EIN, use Form S S-4, available from Social Security Administration or Internal Revenue Service offices.

Records of Income

You will need to keep records to report income for taxes. Be sure to give receipts for cash and keep a copy of them in your file. Your receipts should include the date, the amount, and the source of payment. Receipts should also have: the name of the child, the period of care the payment covers, your name, and your social security or employer identification number. Parents must have this information on their receipts in order to claim the Dependent Care Tax Credit for their children’s cost of care. If you receive payments through the Child Care Feeding Program for the food you serve, you must also record and report this income. The Internal Revenue Service recommends that you have a separate checking account for the business. Keep on file the deposit slips for all money deposited in the business account. Keep a ledger in which you enter the daily sum of all receipts and summarize your child care income monthly.

Records of Expenditures

You will need records of your child care costs to calculate and document business profit or loss and tax deductions. Document the purpose of all business expenditures. Make all expenditures by check. Avoid writing checks to cash or to yourself, except when you withdraw money from the business as your personal income. Establish a petty cash fund for small expenses and document expenditures from it with store receipts. File receipts for all payments and bills. Make sure you record payments and file your canceled checks for all expenditures. Be sure to carefully separate costs of food for the child care operation from your own household food expense. Keep attendance records and menus to document the food served in child care. Enter expenditures in your ledger daily, as they are made, and summarize expenses monthly by categories such as food, wages, equipment, supplies, utilities, etc.

Records of Capital Expenses

Some business expenditures cannot be fully taken as tax deductions in the year they are made. Expenditures which are considered part of your investment in the business are called capital expenses. These costs, such as start-up costs (Examples: installing a fence or acquiring the required CPR training) or costs of business assets which will be used for more than one year (Examples: furniture and equipment), may be amortized or depreciated. This means each cost may be taken in partial tax deductions over the number of years established as the recovery period or useful life of the item. Allowable start-up costs may be amortized. Depreciation can be applied to business assets that have a useful life of more than one year and that naturally deteriorate or get used up, worn out or obsolete. You should keep a permanent record of such expenditures that includes: a description of the item, the date the item was purchased, the amount of expenditure, and the date the item is put to use in the business. You should also record the method and period of depreciation or amortization allowed for each expenditure. You should also record the amount of depreciation reported on each year's tax return. Remember to record information about the sale or other disposition of these assets.

Calculating the Business Costs of Using Your Home

If you use part of your home to provide child care on a regular basis in compliance with state law, you may deduct some allowable expenses. These deductions may be subject to limits specified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Allowable expenses may include: repairs and maintenance, property tax, mortgage interest, rent, utilities, insurance, and depreciation. You may not deduct the cost of basic local telephone service for the first telephone line you have in your home. To determine how much of these allowable expenses can be charged to the business, you will have to calculate the business percentage of your home. The following paragraphs explain how to do this.

For a part of your home that is used exclusively for child care, you may charge all expenses made directly in behalf of that part of the house to the child care business. For example, such expenses may include interior painting or repair of the particular room used for care. On the other hand, indirect expenses are expenses that benefit both the part of the house used for child care and the part you use personally, such as utilities, rent, and insurance. For indirect expenses you must calculate what percentage of the house's area is used for child care. To do this, divide the square footage of the child care area by the total square footage of the house. You may charge to the child care business the resulting percentage of indirect costs.

Example: A provider uses the basement of his/her house only for child care. The area of the basement is 300 square feet and the total area of the house is 1,800 square feet. Divide 300 by 1,800 to obtain the business percentage of 16.7%. This is the percentage of indirect costs that she can allocate to the business.

$$300 \div 1800 \times 100 = 16.7 \%$$

If part of the child care area of your house is also used by you personally at other times, you will have to make an additional calculation. More specifically, you will need to determine how much of both direct and indirect expenses can be charged as business expense. To do this, calculate the percentage of time the area is used for child care. You may do this by dividing the number of hours a week you are open for care by the total number of hours in a week (168). You may charge the resulting percentage of direct expenses of the child care portion of the house to the business. Keep a record of your advertised or attendance hours to support your charges.

Example: A provider uses the living room of his/her house for 55 hours per week for child care. Divide 55 by 168 to obtain the percent the area is used for child care.

$$55 \div 168 \times 100 = 32.7 \%$$

The next step is to determine the portion of indirect expenses you can claim. In order to calculate this percentage, you will have to multiply the time percentage by the area percentage as calculated in the previous examples.

Example: A 300 square foot basement of a 1,800 square foot house (16.7% of the house) is used for child care. The provider is available to provide care on Mondays through Fridays from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. That means the basement is allocated to child care use for 55 hours per week (5 days times 11 hours per day). Dividing 55 hours by 168 hours (the number of hours in a week) results in 32.7%. This provider may charge 32.7% of the direct expenses of maintenance and repair of the basement to the business. To determine the amount of indirect costs that may be charged as a child care expense, he/she must multiply the percentage of time the area is used (32.7%) by the percentage of space used for child care (16.7%). The resulting percentage, 5.5%, is the portion of indirect costs such as rent, insurance, electricity, etc. he/she may charge as a business expense.

Quarterly Estimated Tax Payments and Self Employment Tax

People are required to pay their income taxes as they earn money throughout the year, through either withholding money from regular paychecks or by making quarterly estimated tax payments. If you expect to owe \$500 or more in federal income tax for the year, and if less than 90% of the total federal income tax you will owe will be withheld from your wages from another job, pension or other source of income, you will be required to make quarterly estimated income tax payments. If you do not pay enough tax for any calendar quarter, you may be assessed a penalty.

In addition, if you have net annual earnings of \$400 or more from your own business, you must pay self-employment tax. Self-employment tax is a social security tax for persons who are self-employed. Your payments of self-employment tax contribute to your coverage under the retirement and medical insurance benefits of the social security system. If you employ another person in your child care business, you are required to withhold social security and income taxes from their regular pay. As an employer, you would also be required to pay the employer's share of social security taxes. When you apply for your Employer Identification Number (EIN), the IRS will send you some of the information and forms you will need. You will have to issue a W-2 form, Wage and Tax Statement, to each employee. You will also have to file reports to the Internal Revenue Service regarding taxes you withhold or pay.

How Long to Keep Tax Returns and Records

Keep copies of your tax returns and all supporting documentation for three years after the return was due or for two years after the tax was paid, whichever is later. Keep permanent records of depreciable assets. Keep all records on employment taxes (income tax withholding, social security taxes, federal unemployment tax and advance earned income credit payments) for a minimum of four years after the due date of the return or after the tax was paid, whichever is later.

Internal Revenue Service Resources to Help You

- **Free Telephone Answer Service:** If you have a specific question about your tax requirements, you can call an Internal Revenue Service representative toll-free to receive an answer.
In North Carolina, call 1-800-829-1040.
- * **Small Business Tax Education Program:** IRS sponsors workshops, seminars and courses to help people in small businesses understand their responsibilities. Most are free; for some, there is a nominal charge.
To obtain a listing of locally scheduled programs, write IRS Taxpayer Education Coordinator, 320 Federal Place, Room 128, Greensboro, NC 27401 or call toll-free 1-800-829-1040 or 615-834-9005.
- **Publications:** The following publications and others are available free by writing IRS Forms Distribution Center, P. O. Box 25866, Richmond, VA 23289 or by calling toll-free 1-(800)-Tax-Form (1-800-829-3676).

<u>Publication Number</u>	<u>Name of Publication</u>
1	Your Rights as a Taxpayer
17	Your Federal Income Tax (a guide for individuals)
541	Tax Information on Partnerships
542	Tax Information on Corporations
538	Accounting Periods and Methods
583	Taxpayers Starting a Business
334	Tax Guide for Small Business
583	Information for Business Taxpayers
505	Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax
533	Self-employment Tax
560	self-employed Retirement Plans
535	Business Expenses
587	Business Use of Your Home
917	Business Use of a Car
545	Interest Expense
534	Depreciation
551	Basis of Assets
544	Sales and Other Disposition of Assets
15 (Circular E)	Employer's Tax Guide
937	Business Reporting (Employment Taxes, Information Returns)
596	Earned Income Credit
393	Federal Employment Tax Forms
919	Is My Withholding Correct? (for employees)
503	Child and Dependent Care Expenses (for parents)
910	Guide to Free Tax Services

CONSIDERATIONS IN SITE SELECTION FOR A CHILD CARE CENTER

Zoning

Zoning is a way for local governments to plan for growth in their area. Zoning is a way of ensuring that the land uses of the community are properly located in relation to each other and that adequate space is available for each type of development. Zoning ensures that land is reserved for its best use. Some communities are stricter than others about where certain businesses can be located. It is important to know zoning procedures in the area where you hope to operate a center. Local zoning restrictions may include additional requirements such as lot size, indoor and outdoor space, fencing, provisions for the handicapped and/or parking spaces. These requirements may influence the amount of fees necessary to charge to cover your costs. Zoning information may be obtained by contacting city, county, or town offices.

Number and Ages of Children to be served in the Center

The numbers and ages of children in a center affect how the building should be laid out. Will you serve infants? Are there plenty of outside exits? How many infants, toddlers, two year olds, three year olds, four year olds and school-age children can the building accommodate using the staff/child ratios of the licensing requirements?

Size of Center

The capacity and size of the center affects both the building code requirements and fire code requirements. How large a center are you comfortable running, and what are the numbers of children which will allow the center to support itself?

Health or Safety Hazards in Area

Surroundings of a child care center are important for the owner/operator and parents. You would not want a child care center near the city dump, a deep ditch or under a freeway overpass. Is there a safe area for parents and children to get in and out of their cars?

Traffic

Traffic patterns and parking affect site selection in that the center should be located on well-traveled roads with easy access. There must be a place for staff and parents to park. You want parents to come into the center when they leave children in the morning and pick them up in the evening. Some cities and towns have ordinances requiring adequate parking on the property before permits will be issued, e.g., beach communities and large cities.

Outdoor Space Available for Fenced Playground

There must be enough space around the building to fence a playground for children. For centers serving fewer than 30 children, there must be 75 square feet per child of outdoor play area. For facilities with 30 or more, there must be 75 square feet per child of outdoor play area for at least 1/2 of the total number for which the center is licensed. The area must accommodate at least 30 children with 75 square feet for each child.

Indoor Space Arrangements

Indoor space arrangements are one factor that helps to determine the size of groups and numbers of children in each room or "space." This, in turn, determines the number of staff needed for each classroom. The layout or floor plan, position of exits, windows, bathrooms and kitchen help determine the suitability of an existing building. If you are going to build a center you have the opportunity to design a building specifically for child care use.

Potential for Passing Building, Fire and Sanitation Inspections

Before a child care center can operate, it must pass all building, fire and sanitation inspections. Renovations to existing buildings to make them suitable for child care can be very costly. Caution should be taken to avoid selecting a site before assessing costs of renovations or improvements. How much work would be needed to bring the building up to code?

Moral Environment of the Neighborhood

It is important to parents that the neighborhood in which a child care center is located be “a good place” for children. Check the neighborhood for such things as:

- drug dealing
- prostitution
- other illegal activities
- too many taverns or bars
- an atmosphere of violence

IMPORTANT ISSUES IN SECURING, BUILDING OR RENOVATING A BUILDING FOR CHILD CARE

- Submit any renovation plans or new construction plans to local building inspector’s office and to the Environmental Health Specialist at the health department for approval. One copy should also be sent to the appropriate Division of Child Development and Early Education representative.
- Check with local inspectors to be sure the building will comply with fire, sanitation, and building codes and zoning requirements if you plan to rent, lease or purchase a building.
- Check with the local building inspector regarding the building code requirements for new ownership if you are planning to buy an existing child care center.
- Determine numbers and ages of children to be served, space requirements, and program considerations before constructing, renovating, leasing or renting a building. Staff/child ratios and group size are important. There must be one toilet per 15 children and one sink per 25 children.
- Estimate space requirements by measuring rooms to be used by children. Determine the total square footage and divide this number by 25 square feet.
- Check leases or rental arrangements carefully.
- Be aware of any renovations needed to meet codes and identify who will pay for them when negotiating leases or rental agreements.
- Consult an attorney to be sure that lease agreements are fair and that both parties are protected.
- Measure all hallways, doors and bathrooms for handicap accessibility as required by the North Carolina Building Code. Check with your local building inspector.
- Talk with other business resources including your banker, accountant or the small business center at the nearest community college.
- Review the layout of the building several times in relation to the numbers and ages of children to be served. After the lease is signed or the building is completed or renovated, it is too late!
- Consider the location of the director’s office, sinks, cooling and heating appliances, kitchen, driveways, storage areas and exits.
- Consult with the local Environmental Health Specialist regarding the installation of range and range hoods, three compartment sinks, commercial dishwasher, types of refrigerators or freezers, storage compartments and other items on the sanitation inspection.
- Review the fire inspection form to be sure the exits and fire alarm systems meet the fire regulations.

BASIC INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL PROVIDERS

- Consider ease of cleaning and maintenance of a building in determining whether a building is suitable for child care.
- Obtain estimates of heating and cooling costs and include those costs in determining whether a building is a good choice for child care.
- Deal only with reputable businesses and keep accurate records on such things as estimates of building materials, labor charges and contracts.
- Compare costs on labor and building materials. Check to be sure they will meet building, sanitation and fire codes for child care.

SAMPLE SANITATION FORM - DO NOT COPY

N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 Division of Environmental Health
Sanitation Standards Evaluation
Form for Child Care Centers

Demerits: _____
Date of Insp/Chg. _____
Status Code: _____

Health Department _____
Current Facility ID: _____
 Old Facility ID: _____

Classification: Superior Approved Provisional Disapproved

Water Supply: 1 Community 3 Non-Transient Non-Community
 2 Transient Non-Community 4 Non-Public Water Supply

Water sample taken today? YES NO
 1 Inspection Name Change
 2 Re-Inspection Verification of Closure
 V Visit Status Change

Wastewater System: 1 Community 2 On-Site Systems

Licensing ID No: _____ Maximum Capacity: _____

Name of Facility: _____ Operator: _____

Street Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

HANDWASHING: .2803, .2836

- 1. Handwashing when required 5
- 2. Proper handwashing procedure 5

FOOD: .2804, .2806, .2807, .2808, .2836

- *3. From approved sources, no spoilage, adulteration 6
- *4. Potentially hazardous food meets storage and holding temperatures; bottles, lunches refrigerated at 45 F or below 6
- 5. Properly stored, thawed, prepared, cooked, cooled, handled, served, transported, packaged and identified. 5
- 6. Not re-served 3
- 7. Thermometers provided, accurate 2

FOOD SERVICE EQUIPMENT & UTENSILS: .2809, .2810, .2812, .2814

- *8. Meets specifications for refrigeration, sinks, lavatories and dishwashing equipment 6
- 9. Meets specifications for other equipment and utensils, approved material and construction 4
- 10. Food contact surfaces properly washed, rinsed, sanitized and air dried; single-service articles not re-used 5
- 11. Sanitizer provided; test kit available 2
- 12. Equipment and non-food contact surfaces clean and in good repair 4
- 13. Proper storage and handling of clean equipment, utensils and single-service articles 3

WATER SUPPLY & DRINKING WATER FACILITIES: .2815, .2836

- *14. Water supply meets 15A NCAC 18A .1700 or 15A NCAC 18C whichever is applicable 6
- *15. Hot water supplied and maintained in the kitchen 6
- 16. Hot water supplied and tempered water maintained as required in all other areas 4
- *17. Hot water in excess of 120°F not allowed in areas accessible to children 6
- 18. Backflow prevention provided, no cross connections 3
- 19. Drinking fountains of approved type, pressure regulated, clean 2

LEAD POISONING HAZARDS: .2816

- *20. No identified lead poisoning hazards as defined under NC General Statutes 130A-131.7(7) 6

TOILET AND LAVATORY FACILITIES:

- .2817, .2818, .2836**
- 21. Properly sized, located, and accessible, good repair; toilets and potty chairs cleaned and disinfected 4
- 22. Soap, approved hand drying devices, toilet tissue available 3
- 23. Approved storage in toilet rooms, lavatories free of storage; hand wash signs posted 2

DIAPER CHANGING FACILITIES: .2817, .2818, .2819; .2820, .2836

- *24. Approved facilities 6
- *25. Diapering surfaces cleaned and disinfected after each use 6
- 26. Cleaning and disinfecting solutions provided; test kit available when required 2

Demerits

- 27. Free of storage; cleaning and disinfecting solutions labeled; diaper changing and hand wash signs posted 2

STORAGE: .2820

- *28. Medications properly stored 6
- *29. Hazardous products properly stored and locked 6
- 30. Non-hazardous products properly stored 3
- 31. Facilities provided for proper storage; kept clean 2

BEDS, COTS, MATS AND LINENS: .2821, .2836

- 32. Individual linen provided; adequate beds, cots, or mats provided, properly stored, labeled, spaced during use 3
- 33. Linen, bedding, wash cloths, bibs, and burping cloths laundered, in good repair 3

TOYS, EQUIPMENT, FURNITURE: .2822, .2836

- 34. Clean and in good repair; water play centers cleaned, sanitized and maintained 4
- 35. Mouth-contact surfaces cleaned and sanitized in rooms where children who are not toilet trained are cared for 4

PERSONNEL: .2808, .2823

- 36. Approved hygienic practices, clean clothes, hair restraints where required 2

FLOORS, WALLS & CEILINGS: .2824, .2825, .2836

- 37. Easily cleanable, good repair, clean, carpets vacuumed and extraction cleaned, date cleaned 4

LIGHTING AND THERMAL ENVIRONMENT: .2826

- 38. Room temperature between 65° F and 85° F 3
- 39. Equipment clean and in good repair, maintained as required 2

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL: .2827, .2836

- *40. Persons with a communicable disease or condition excluded in accordance with 15A NCAC 19A .0200 6
- 41. Persons caring for sick or mildly ill children excluded from situations in which transmission can be expected to occur 4
- 42. Designated area for sick children, maintained as required 2

WASTEWATER: .2829

- *43. Wastewater disposed of by approved methods in accordance with 15A NCAC 18A .1900 6

SOLID WASTE: .2830, .2836

- 44. Solid waste properly handled; containers and cleaning equipment kept clean, can cleaning facilities adequate 2

ANIMAL & VERMIN CONTROL, OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT & PREMISES: .2831, .2832

- 45. No animals in food preparation areas and no unrestrained or prohibited animals except as noted 3
- 46. Effective control of rodents, insects, and other vermin; premises free of vermin harborage and breeding areas 3
- 47. Premises clean and drained, equipment in good repair, sandboxes properly constructed and clean 2

SWIMMING & WADING POOLS: .2833

- *48. Designed, constructed, operated and maintained in accordance with 15A NCAC 18A .2500 6

* Indicates critical item (6-demerits)

SAMPLE BUILDING INSPECTION FORM – DO NOT COPY

DCDEE-0304
Rev. 9/08

Identification # _____
County _____
Date of Inspection _____

BUILDING INSPECTORS INSPECTION FORM FOR CHILD CARE CENTERS

NAME OF OPERATION _____

ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

BUILDING INSPECTORS CERTIFICATE

1. The areas in the building that are designated as the licensed space are required by the licensing agency to meet the Building Code in effect when an application for licensure is submitted to the regulating agency. Does the building listed above, to the extent observable, meet the current North Carolina Building Code? Yes____ No____

2. If no, list question numbers which do not comply, explain the violation and whether equivalent protection for the safety of the children is provided:
1) _____
2) _____
3) _____
4) _____

3. Are any of the above violations of a life safety concern? Yes____ No____
If yes, please list question numbers _____

4. In your opinion based on the violations listed above, do you recommend that the Division of Child Development and Early Education issue a provisional license to allow time for correction of the violations? Yes____ No____
If yes, how long (30-60-90 days) and for which violations? _____

(Note: All violations must be corrected before a license can be issued unless a provisional time period is recommended or equivalent protection is documented.)

5. Number of rooms approved for occupancy by children? _____
(Attach sketch of building with rooms identified)

6. Specify any local zoning restriction: _____

Signature of Inspector _____/Date _____

Jurisdiction _____/Phone: _____

The Inspectors Certificate and Building Inspection Form is required to be completed in its entirety before the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) can consider the document complete. All questions must be answered; any **NO** answers must have a written explanation.

This form was developed through the cooperation of the Division of Child Development and Early Education and the Engineering Division of the Department of Insurance. Please note that the inspection forms do not cover all areas of the Code, but are intended to be used as a guide for the local inspector. If additional Code items which are not addressed on these forms are found to be in violation of the Code, please document them on the back of this form.

Prepare in quadruplicate: Original & copy to DCDEE, 1 copy kept by inspector, 1 copy kept by operator.

SAMPLE BUILDING INSPECTION FORM (CONTINUED) – DO NOT COPY

Identification # _____
 County _____
 Date of Inspection _____

CHILD CARE BUILDING INSPECTION FORM

SECTION A: The following general questions should be answered for **BOTH** Educational and Institutional type occupancies.

LIGHT & VENTILATION

1. Is the total area of all windows in the child care room equal to or greater than 8% of the floor area or is artificial light provided? Yes _____ No _____
- 2.a Does the room have natural ventilation from a minimum amount of operable window or door area to the outside that would allow a clear opening that is equal to or greater than 4% or more of the floor area? (If **NO**, go to question 2b). Yes _____ No _____
- b Is space mechanically ventilated as required by North Carolina Mechanical Code? (N/A if an existing building) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____

FIRE

3. Does this building have a manually operated fire alarm system (electrically installed system with pull box stations)? Yes _____ No _____

EXITS

4. Are there at least 2 exits (doors, stairs, smoke proof towers, ramps, or horizontal exits) remote from each other on each floor or fire section of the building? Yes _____ No _____
5. Is the exit capacity adequate? Yes _____ No _____
6. Are all means of egress adequately illuminated at all times that the building is occupied? Yes _____ No _____
7. Are the means of egress identified by readily visible exit signs when the exit or way to reach it is not immediately obvious to the occupants? Yes _____ No _____
8. Is emergency power provided for centers with more than 300 occupants or for centers providing night care as required by the Building Code? N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____

CORRIDORS AND ACCESS TO EXITS

9. Are all means of egress unobstructed without passing through a closet, storage area, kitchen, restroom, or other hazardous space? Yes _____ No _____
10. Are all exit corridors a minimum 1-hour fire resistance? (If yes, go to Question 12) (N/A applies only if there are no corridors) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____
11. If corridors are not 1 hour fire rated, do all child care rooms, spaces, and areas have a direct level of discharge exit to the outside? Yes _____ No _____
12. a. Do all corridors, ramps, and passageways have a minimum 6 feet clear width in all areas serving as means of egress for capacity of 100 or more? (N/A if capacity is less than 100) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____
- b. Are all corridors, ramps, and passageways not less than 44" clear width in all areas serving as means of egress for capacity of less than 100? (N/A if capacity is more than 100) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____

SAMPLE BUILDING INSPECTION FORM (CONTINUED) – DO NOT COPY

13. Are all dead-end corridors no more than 20 feet in length?
(N/A applies only if no dead-end occurs) N/A_____ Yes_____ No_____
14. Do all doors have a minimum clear opening width of 32" (min. door width of 36")
in the following locations:
a. between occupied rooms and required exits? Yes_____ No_____
b. exit doors leading to the exterior? Yes_____ No_____
15. Are all doors in the line of exit travel a swinging door (side hinged)? Yes_____ No_____
16. Do doors to rooms that accommodate more than 50 people swing in the
direction of travel ? N/A_____ Yes_____ No_____
(N/A applies if room accommodates less than 50 people)
- 17.a Do all required egress and exit doors have single motion, self-unlocking type
handle, lever, push pad, or panic hardware? Yes_____ No_____
- b. If room accommodates 100 or more people, do all required egress and exit doors
have push pads or panic hardware? N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____

STAIRS (NOTE: If no stairs, interior or exterior, check N/A___ and go to Question 22. If applicable, all questions must be answered)

- 18.a Are all stairs serving 50 or more occupants at least 44 inches in width? N/A_____ Yes_____ No_____
- b Are all stairs serving less than 50 occupants, at least 36" in width? N/A_____ Yes_____ No_____
19. Are all stairs with four or more steps provided with proper handrails
and guardrails? Yes_____ No_____
20. Are all interior stairs enclosed with 1-hour rated walls and 1-hour
rated "B" labeled doors that are at least 36" wide? Yes_____ No_____
21. Are the stair enclosure doors self-closing? Yes_____ No_____

WALLS AND CEILINGS

22. a. Are all wall and ceiling coverings throughout building non-combustible?
(Use of untreated combustible fiber boards, wood, and other combustible
fiber boards, wood and other combustible finishes is prohibited). Yes_____ No_____
- b. Do interior wall and ceiling finish materials meet the flame spread ratings
as required by the Minimum Interior Finish Classification Table, NCBC Yes_____ No_____
23. Do ceilings in habitable rooms have a minimum of 7'-6" clear height? Yes_____ No_____

HEATING SYSTEMS/MECHANICAL

24. Is the building free of unvented fuel burning or portable electric space heaters? Yes_____ No_____
25. Have air conditioning, ventilation, heating, cooking, and other service
equipment been inspected and approved by the appropriate inspectors? Yes_____ No_____
Date Inspected _____
26. a. Is combustion and ventilation air for boiler or heater rooms taken directly
from and discharged to the outside of the building? N/A_____ Yes_____ No_____
(N/A if electric heat is installed)
- b. If inside air is used for fuel-burning appliance does it meet the requirements of
Chapter 7 of the North Carolina Mechanical Code. N/A_____ Yes_____ No_____
(N/A if inside air is not used)

SAMPLE BUILDING INSPECTION FORM (CONTINUED) – DO NOT COPY

PLUMBING

27. Does the number of waterclosets and lavatories comply with the Plumbing Code as determined by the appropriate inspector? Yes _____ No _____
 (1 watercloset per 15 children, 1 lavatory per 25 children)

Maximum # of persons allowed by plumbing facilities? _____
 Date Inspected _____

ELECTRICAL

28. Do the visible and accessible portions of the electrical system comply with applicable sections of the Electrical Code as determined by the appropriate inspector? Yes _____ No _____
 Date Inspected _____

MIXED AND MULTI-USE OCCUPANCIES

29. Are all child care areas separated from adjacent occupancies in accordance with the requirement of mixed occupancies and the Occupancy Separation Requirements Table? (N/A if no mixed occupancies) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____

30. Do all multi-use areas comply with the most restrictive applicable sections of the State Building Code for each intended use? N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____
 (N/A if no multi-use areas)
 (Multi-use is defined as an area which will be used for different functions at different times and not concurrent. Example: child care to fellowship hall.)

ACCESSIBILITY CODES

31. Does this building comply with applicable State Building Codes for access/use by persons with disabilities? Yes _____ No _____

SECTION B: The following questions should be answered only for **educational occupancy** in addition to the questions answered in Section A above.

32. Does the building comply with the Allowable Heights and Building Areas Table for Educational Occupancy? (If **NO**, go to Section C). Yes _____ No _____

33. a. Are all rooms, approved for use by children below grade 2, on the level of exit discharge? (If **NO** go to Section C) Yes _____ No _____
 b. Are rooms used by children in grades 2 and higher no more than one story above the level of exit discharge? Yes _____ No _____

34. a. Do rooms used by children who are less than 2 ½ years have a direct exit to the outside? (N/A applies only if center does not serve children under 2 ½ yrs) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____
 b. Do rooms used by children under 2 ½ years qualify as alcoves to adjacent spaces with direct exit to the outside? Yes _____ No _____
 c. If the square footage of the child care area is >20,000 square feet, do all rooms for all children have direct exits? (N/A if sq. footage is < 20,000) (If **NO** to both a and b or c, go to Section C) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____

35. Are all rooms approved for use by children provided with an operable window which complies with Special Exit Requirements for Educational Occupancy? (N/A if direct exit to outside) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____

36. Is the most remote point in every room occupied by children, including dining room, not more than 200 feet from the nearest exterior exit? (non-sprinklered building) Yes _____ No _____

37. Are smoke detectors provided in the corridors in accordance with Automatic Fire Detection and NFPA72 for child care use? Yes _____ No _____

SAMPLE BUILDING INSPECTION FORM (CONTINUED) – DO NOT COPY

SECTION C: The following questions should be answered only for **institutional occupancy** in addition to the questions answered in Section A above.

38. Does the building comply with the Allowable Heights and Building Areas Table for Institutional Occupancy? Yes _____ No _____
39. Are smoke detectors provided in the corridors in accordance with Automatic Fire Detection and NFPA72? Yes _____ No _____
40. Does the building provide protection from hazardous areas as required by Special Institutional Occupancies, Group I Unrestrained Occupancies, Protection from Hazardous Areas? Yes _____ No _____
41. Does the building have an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Special Institutional Occupancies Group I Unrestrained Occupancies? Yes _____ No _____
42. Is the most remote point in every room occupied by children, including the dining room, not more than 200 feet from the nearest exterior exit? Yes _____ No _____

SAMPLE BUILDING INSPECTION FOR A CENTER IN A RESIDENCE -DO NOT COPY

DCDEE-0305
Rev. 9/08

Identification # _____
County _____
Date of Inspection _____

**BUILDING INSPECTORS INSPECTION FORM
FOR CENTERS IN A RESIDENCE LICENSED FOR
3 TO 12 PRESCHOOLERS**

NAME OF OPERATION _____
ADDRESS _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____
CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

BUILDING INSPECTORS CERTIFICATE

1. Buildings are required by the licensing agency to meet the Building Code in effect when an application for licensure is submitted to the regulating agency. Does the building listed above, to the extent observable, meet the current North Carolina Building Code? Yes ___ No ___

2. If no, list question numbers which do not comply, explain the violation and whether equivalent protection for the safety of the children is provided:
1) _____
2) _____
3) _____
4) _____

3. Are any of the above violations of a life safety concern? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, please list question numbers _____

4. In your opinion based on the violations listed above, do you recommend that the Division of Child Development and Early Education issue a provisional license to allow time for correction of the violations? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, how long (30-60-90 days) and for which violations? _____

(Note: All violations must be corrected before a license can be issued unless a provisional time period is recommended or equivalent protection is documented.)

5. Number of rooms approved for occupancy by children? _____
(Attach sketch of building with rooms identified)

6. Specify any local zoning restriction: _____

Signature of Inspector _____/Date _____

Jurisdiction _____/Phone: _____

The Inspectors Certificate and Building Inspection Form is required to be completed in its entirety before the Division of Child Development and Early Education can consider the document complete. All questions must be answered; any NO answers must have a written explanation. Developed through the cooperation of the Division of Child Development and Early Education and the Engineering Division of the Department of Insurance. Please note that the inspection forms do not cover all areas of the Code, but are intended to be used as a guide for the local inspector. If additional Code items which are not addressed on these forms are found to be in violation of the Code, please document them on the back of this form. Prepare in quadruplicate: Original & copy to Division of Child Development and Early Education, 1 copy kept by inspector, 1 copy kept by operator.

SAMPLE BUILDING INSPECTION FOR A CENTER IN A RESIDENCE (CONTINUED) – DO NOT COPY

Identification # _____
 County _____
 Date of Inspection _____

CENTERS IN A RESIDENCE (3 - 12 PRESCHOOLERS) BUILDING INSPECTION FORM

1. Does the building meet the intent of the Building Code for R4 Occupancy? Yes___ No___
2. If an addition has been built for this use, does it meet the Building Code? N/A___ Yes___ No___
 (N/A if no new addition)
3. Do interior wall and ceiling finish materials meet the flame-spread ratings as required by the Minimum Interior Finish Classification Table, NCBC? Yes___ No___
4. a. Does each room used for child care purposes have, on that level, access to two remotely located outside doors? Yes___ No___
 ** IF answer is yes, skip to Question 5. If 4a is no, answer 4b.
- b. Is an exterior door located in each room used for child care purposes? Yes___ No___
 ** If answer is yes, skip to Question 6.
5. Are all rooms located so as not to have a dead-end distance in excess of 20 feet? Yes___ No___
6. Is the exit door located no more than 48" above grade? Yes___ No___
 ** If answer is no, Is a ramp or pathway to grade provided? Yes___ No___
7. Do all locks on doors require no more than one operation to release the door? Yes___ No___
8. Does this building have a manually operated fire alarm system (electrically installed system with pull box stations)? Yes___ No___
9. Are all unoccupied spaces, such as basements, laundry rooms, and fossil fuel fired furnace rooms provided with approved labeled automatic smoke and/or heat detectors? Yes___ No___
10. Is the total area of all windows in the child care room equal to or greater than 8% of the floor area or is artificial light provided? Yes___ No___
11. Is one-half of the window area openable, or is the space mechanically ventilated with a minimum of 5 air changes of fresh air per hour? Yes___ No___
12. Are all fuel-burning space heaters, fireplaces, and floor furnaces, which are listed and approved, provided with a protective screen attached securely to a substantial support in such a way that children will not be burned? N/A___ Yes___ No___

SAMPLE BUILDING INSPECTION FOR A CENTER IN A RESIDENCE (CONTINUED) – DO NOT COPY

HEATING SYSTEMS/MECHANICAL

13. Is the building free of unvented fuel burning or portable electric space heaters? Yes___ No___
14. Have air conditioning, ventilation, heating, cooking, and other service equipment been inspected and approved by the appropriate inspectors? Yes___ No___
15. Is combustion and ventilation air for boiler or heater rooms taken directly from and discharged to the outside of the building (N/A if electric heat is installed)? N/A___ Yes___ No___

PLUMBING

16. Do the visible and accessible portions of the plumbing system comply with applicable sections of the Plumbing Code as determined by the appropriate inspector? Yes___ No___
- Date Inspected_____

ELECTRICAL

17. Do the visible and accessible portions of the electrical system comply with applicable sections of the Electrical Code as determined by the appropriate inspector? Yes___ No___
- Date Inspected_____

ACCESSIBILITY CODES

18. Does this building comply with applicable State Building Codes for access/use by persons with disabilities? Yes___ No___

SAMPLE BUILDING INSPECTION FORM FOR A CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP – DO NOT COPY

DCDEE- 0306
Rev. 09/08

Identification # _____
County _____
Date of Inspection _____

BUILDING INSPECTORS INSPECTION FORM FOR CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP/CONTINUED USE

NAME OF OPERATION _____
ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE: _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S CERTIFICATE

2. For Change of Ownership and continued use, the areas in the building that are designated as the licensed space are required by the licensing agency to meet the 2006 NC Rehabilitation Code. Does the building listed above, to the extent observable, meet the 2006 NC Rehabilitation Code? Yes ___ No ___

2 a For any question answered "No" but meeting prior code, list item number and attach proof of prior code certification.

Item Number	Description	Prior Code Certification	
		Yes	No

b. For any question answered "No" that DOES NOT meet applicable prior code, list item number, explain the violation and whether equivalent protection for the safety of the children is provided:

Item Number	Description	Equivalent Protection	
		Yes	No

3 Are any of the above items of a life safety concern? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, please list question numbers _____

4. In your opinion based on the items listed above where prior code certification is not available, do you recommend that Division of Child Development and Early Education allow time for correction of these items? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, how long (30-60-90 days) and for which items? _____

5. Number of rooms approved for occupancy by children? _____
(Attach sketch of building with rooms identified)

6. Specify any local zoning restriction: _____

Signature of Inspector _____/Date _____

Jurisdiction _____/Phone: _____

Note: By signing above I acknowledge that I have seen and agree with all required prior code certification documentation.

The Inspectors Certificate and Building Inspection Form is required to be completed in its entirety before the Division of Child Development and Early Education can consider the document complete. All questions must be answered; any **NO** answers must have a written explanation.

This form was developed through the cooperation of the Division of Child Development and Early Education and the Engineering Division of the Department of Insurance. Please note that the inspection forms do not cover all areas of the Code, but are intended to be used as a guide for the local inspector. If additional Code items which are not addressed on these forms are found to be in violation of the Code, please document them on the back of this form.

Prepare in quadruplicate: Original and copy to DCDEE, 1 copy kept by inspector, 1 copy kept by operator.

SAMPLE BUILDING INSPECTION FORM FOR A CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP (CONTINUED)
DO NOT COPY

Identification # _____
 County _____
 Date of Inspection _____

CHILD CARE BUILDING INSPECTION FORM

SECTION A: The following general questions should be answered for **BOTH** Educational and Institutional type occupancies.

LIGHT & VENTILATION

1. Is the total area of all windows in the child care room equal to or greater than 8% of the floor area or is artificial light provided? Yes _____ No _____
- 2.a Does the room have natural ventilation from a minimum amount of operable window or door area to the outside that would allow a clear opening that is equal to or greater than 4% or more of the floor area? (If **NO**, go to question 2b). Yes _____ No _____
- b Is space mechanically ventilated as required by North Carolina Mechanical Code? (N/A if an existing building) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____

FIRE

- 3.a What type of fire alarm system is being used? _____
- b. Does it meet the applicable code? Yes _____ No _____

EXITS

4. Are there at least 2 exits (doors, stairs, smoke proof towers, ramps, or horizontal exits) remote from each other on each floor or fire section of the building? Yes _____ No _____
5. Is the exit capacity adequate? Yes _____ No _____
6. Are all means of egress adequately illuminated at all times that the building is occupied? Yes _____ No _____
7. Are the means of egress identified by readily visible exit signs when the exit or way to reach it is not immediately obvious to the occupants? Yes _____ No _____
8. Is emergency power provided for centers with more than 300 occupants or for centers providing night care as required by the Building Code? N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____

CORRIDORS AND ACCESS TO EXITS

9. Are all means of egress unobstructed without passing through a closet, storage area, kitchen, restroom, or other hazardous space? Yes _____ No _____
10. Are all exit corridors a minimum 1-hour fire resistance? (If yes, go to Question 12) (NA applies only if there are no corridors) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____
11. If corridors are not 1 hour fire rated, do all child care rooms, spaces, and areas have a direct level of discharge exit to the outside? Yes _____ No _____
12. a. Do all corridors, ramps, and passageways have a minimum 6 feet clear width in all areas serving as means of egress for capacity of 100 or more? (N/A if capacity is less than 100) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____
- b. Are all corridors, ramps, and passageways not less than 44" clear width in all areas serving as means of egress for capacity of less than 100? (N/A if capacity is more than 100) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____
13. Are all dead-end corridors no more than 20 feet in length? (N/A applies only if no dead-end occurs) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____
14. Do all doors have a minimum clear opening width of 32" (min. door width of 36") in the following locations:
 a. between occupied rooms and required exits? Yes _____ No _____
 b. exit doors leading to the exterior? Yes _____ No _____
15. Are all doors in the line of exit travel a swinging door (side hinged)? Yes _____ No _____
16. Do doors to rooms that accommodate more than 50 people swing in the direction of travel? (N/A applies if room accommodates less than 50 people) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____

SAMPLE BUILDING INSPECTION FORM FOR A CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP (CONTINUED)

DO NOT COPY

17.a. Do all required egress and exit doors have single motion, self-unlocking type handle, lever, push pad, or panic hardware? Yes _____ No _____

b. If room accommodates 100 or more people, do all required egress and exit doors have push pads or panic hardware? N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____

STAIRS (NOTE: If no stairs, interior or exterior, check N/A ___ and go to Question 22. If applicable, all questions must be answered)

18.a. Are all stairs serving 50 or more occupants at least 44 inches in width? N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____

b. Are all stairs serving less than 50 occupants, at least 36" in width? N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____

19. Are all stairs with four or more steps provided with proper handrails and guardrails? Yes _____ No _____

20. Are all interior stairs enclosed with 1-hour rated walls and 1-hour rated "B" labeled doors that are at least 36" wide? Yes _____ No _____

21. Are the stair enclosure doors self-closing? Yes _____ No _____

WALLS AND CEILINGS

22. a. Are all wall and ceiling coverings throughout building non-combustible? (Use of untreated combustible fiber boards, wood, and other combustible fiber boards, wood and other combustible finishes is prohibited). Yes _____ No _____

b. Do interior wall and ceiling finish materials meet the flame spread ratings as required by the Minimum Interior Finish Classification of the applicable code? Yes _____ No _____

23. Do ceilings in habitable rooms have a minimum of 7'-6" clear height? Yes _____ No _____

HEATING SYSTEMS/MECHANICAL

24. Is the building free of unvented fuel burning or portable electric space heaters? Yes _____ No _____

25. Have air conditioning, ventilation, heating, cooking, and other service equipment been inspected and approved by the appropriate inspectors? Yes _____ No _____
Date Inspected _____

26. a. Is combustion and ventilation air for boiler or heater rooms taken directly from and discharged to the outside of the building? (N/A if electric heat is installed) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____

c. If inside air is used for fuel-burning appliance does it meet the requirements of Chapter 7 of the North Carolina Mechanical Code. (N/A if inside air is not used) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____

PLUMBING

27. Does the number of waterclosets and lavatories comply with the Plumbing Code as determined by the appropriate inspector? (1 watercloset per 15 children, 1 lavatory per 25 children) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____
Maximum # of persons allowed by plumbing facilities? _____
Date Inspected _____

ELECTRICAL

28. Do the visible and accessible portions of the electrical system comply with applicable sections of the Electrical Code as determined by the appropriate inspector? Yes _____ No _____
Date Inspected _____

MIXED AND MULTI-USE OCCUPANCIES

29. Are all child care areas separated from adjacent occupancies in accordance with the requirement of mixed occupancies and the Occupancy Separation Requirements of the applicable code? (N/A if no mixed occupancies) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____

SAMPLE BUILDING INSPECTION FORM FOR A CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP (CONTINUED)

DO NOT COPY

30. Do all multi-use areas comply with the most restrictive applicable sections of the State Building Code for each intended use? N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____
 (N/A if no multi-use areas)
 (Multi-use is defined as an area which will be used for different functions at different times and not concurrent. Example: child care to fellowship hall.)

ACCESSIBILITY CODES

31. Does this building comply with applicable State Building Codes for access by persons with disabilities? Yes _____ No _____

SECTION B: The following questions should be answered only for **educational occupancy** in addition to the questions answered in Section A above.

32. Does the building comply with the Allowable Heights and Building Areas Table for Educational Occupancy? (If **NO**, go to Section C). Yes _____ No _____
33. a. Are all rooms, approved for use by children below grade 2, on the level of exit discharge? (If **NO** go to Section C) Yes _____ No _____
 b. Are rooms used by children in grades 2 and higher no more than one story above the level of exit discharge? Yes _____ No _____
34. a. Do rooms used by children who are less than 2 ½ years have a direct exit to the outside? (N/A applies only if center does not serve children under 2 ½ yrs) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____
 b. Do rooms used by children under 2 ½ years qualify as alcoves to adjacent spaces with direct exit to the outside? Yes _____ No _____
 c. If the square footage of the child care area is >20,000 square feet, do all rooms for all children have direct exits? (N/A if sq. footage is < 20,000) (If **NO** to both a and b or c, go to Section C) N/A _____ Yes _____ No _____
35. Are all rooms approved for use by children provided with an operable window which complies with Special Exit Requirements for Educational Occupancy? (N/A if direct exit to outside) Yes _____ No _____
36. Is the most remote point in every room occupied by children, including dining room, not more than 200 feet from the nearest exterior exit? (non-sprinklered building) Yes _____ No _____
37. Are smoke detectors provided in the corridors in accordance with Automatic Fire Detection and NFPA72 for child care use? Yes _____ No _____

SECTION C: The following questions should be answered only for **institutional occupancy** in addition to the questions answered in Section A above.

38. Does the building comply with the Allowable Heights and Building Areas Table for Institutional Occupancy? Yes _____ No _____
39. Are smoke detectors provided in the corridors in accordance with Automatic Fire Detection and NFPA72? Yes _____ No _____
40. Does the building provide protection from hazardous areas as required by Special Institutional Occupancies, Group I Unrestrained Occupancies, Protection from Hazardous Areas? Yes _____ No _____
41. Does the building have an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Special Institutional Occupancies Group I Unrestrained Occupancies? Yes _____ No _____
42. Is the most remote point in every room occupied by children, including the dining room, not more than 200 feet from the nearest exterior exit? Yes _____ No _____

For change of ownership/continued use inspections, questions answered "No" or "N/A" are allowable if the building met applicable code at the original time of licensure.

SAMPLE FIRE INSPECTION REPORT – DO NOT COPY

DCDEE-0303

Rev. 9/02

ADULT DAY CARE & CHILD CARE FIRE INSPECTION REPORT

COUNTY _____ DATE OF INSPECTION _____ Facility ID # _____

Please complete all items below. If not applicable, check N/A in the box with a written explanation attached.

Name of Facility _____ Adult ____ Child ____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 City _____ Zip _____ Responsible Party _____

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS:

YES NO N/A

1. Attic/basement/closets/garage/furnace room & heaters clear of trash & combustible materials.			
2. Clearance from ignition sources & combustible materials maintained.			

EMERGENCY PLANNING:

YES NO N/A

3. Approved evacuation plan posted.			
4. Evidence of monthly fire drills posted.			
5. Record of employee training in fire prevention/evacuation & annual fire safety training on site.			

FIRE SERVICE FEATURES:

YES NO N/A

6. Street Number posted. (Contrasting color to building & height 4" or more.)			
7. Unobstructed fire apparatus road. (Width of 20' & vertical clearance of not less than 13'6").			
8. Hydrants/Fire Department connections/control valves clear of obstructions by 3'.			

BUILDING SERVICES AND SYSTEMS:

YES NO N/A

9. Approved heating system, listed. (No fuel burning or portable electric space heaters.)			
10. Emergency lighting/exit lights in good operating order.			
11. Electrical panels clear of storage. (Minimum 30")			
12. Wiring/fixtures in good condition. (Extension cords not suitable for permanent wiring.)			
13. Type I hood system over all domestic cooking appliances that produce grease laden vapors.			

FIRE RESISTANCE RATED CONSTRUCTION:

YES NO N/A

14. Required fire resistant rating maintained. (Walls, partitions, floors)			
15. Door-hold open devices/automatic door closures operating properly.			

INTERIOR DECORATIONS & FURNISHINGS:

YES NO N/A

16. No storage of clothing/personal effects in corridors & lobbies.			
17. Maximum 10% of decorative materials covering walls. Does not apply to artwork & teaching material in classroom. Nothing suspended from ceiling			
18. 20% maximum coverage for artwork & teaching material located on corridor walls.			
19. Exits free of obstructions.			

FIRE PROTECTION:

YES NO N/A

20. Sprinkler system maintained with annual test reports provided.			
21. Smoke detector/fire alarm system maintained with annual test reports provided.			
22. Approved extinguishers mounted properly & in good working order.			
23. Cooking suppression systems & hood exhaust properly maintained.			
24. Protective guards(such as screens) on fuel burning furnaces or fireplaces provided.			

MEANS OF EGRESS:

YES NO N/A

25. All exits & their access (i.e. Aisles & Corridors) free of obstructions.			
26. All locking devices on exit doors are of an approved type.			
27. Yards & fencing to allow unobstructed exit to exterior of site.			

πApproved for day time care only

πApproved for day time and night care

At the time of this inspection, the fire safety conditions in this facility were found to be:

_____ Satisfactory

_____ Unsatisfactory

Inspector _____ Phone _____

Prepare in triplicate – one copy retained by local fire authority and two copies given to the operator.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR POTENTIAL CHILD CARE OPERATORS

After learning some of the issues involved in operating a child care center, you may wish to assess your commitment. Here are some important questions to help a potential child care operator decide whether or not to proceed with obtaining a license and operating a child care center.

	Yes	No	I Need More Information
1. Do I want to operate a child care center?			
2. Do I have sufficient capital to finance opening my child care center and to keep it in operation?			
3. Am I willing to commit the time and energy to make my center a success?			
4. What do I know about children of different ages?			
5. Have I considered family and community commitments in relation to time demands of operating a child care center?			
6. Have I looked at all the costs involved in operating a child care center--financial and personal?			
7. Have I considered the business management skills necessary to operate a child care center?			
8. Will I be able to find trained, qualified people to help in operating a center?			
9. Do I really like working with children?			
10. Do I really like working with parents of young children?			
11. Can I talk with other people and solve problems without anger or rudeness?			
12. Does the term "willing to learn" apply to me also?			
13. Do I have the necessary education and experience to be the administrator of a center or can I locate a qualified person who can run a center for me?			
14. Can I manage money?			
15. Can I manage people?			
16. Does responsibility for others' actions frighten me?			
17. Do I really know the working families in my community and would they trust me with the care of their children?			
18. Do I really understand the developmental needs of young children such as:			
•the need for play and what it teaches?			
•the social and emotional needs of young children?			
•a positive environment for learning?			
•a positive educational approach to behavior and guidance?			
19. Do I know what I want the caregivers in my center to do with the children all day?			
20. Is this what I really want to do?			

THE NEXT STEP

So, you still want to open a child care center. Good! North Carolina is glad to have you as a potential provider. Please take a few minutes more to read over the list of things that you need to do now that you have decided to pursue the idea of opening a child care center. Keep in mind that this list is not all inclusive, but will definitely help you get started.

Attend a **“Pre-Licensing Workshop.”**

A list of the Pre-licensing Workshops is enclosed with this packet. Updated workshop schedules are also listed on the Division’s web site at www.ncchildcare.nc.gov under the “Provider” tab. The two day workshop will give you an overview of the basic NC Child Care Requirements for child care centers. As part of your enrollment, you will receive a copy of the NC Child Care Handbook. **Attending both days of this workshop is required in order to operate a licensed child care program in North Carolina.**

- If after attending the Workshop you would like to request Pre-licensing Consultation, you will complete an Application-Facility Profile and floor plan diagram of your proposed child care facility. These items will be mailed to the Lead Child Care Consultant for the county where you plan to establish your program. The Application-Facility Profile, a sample floor plan diagram and a list of the lead consultants and the counties they serve will be provided on Day 2 of the Pre-licensing Workshop.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- * *Consultants work out of their homes. You will need to leave a message and have him/her return your call on his/her next scheduled office day (generally once per week).*
- * *Consultants usually schedule visits at least one month in advance. Please remember to allow enough time for this when planning your opening date.*

For more information about child care licensing requirements, call or write:

NC Division of Child Development and Early Education

2201 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-2201

919-527-6335

1-800-859-0829

www.ncchildcare.nc.gov

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