Space and Equipment
There are space requirements for indoor and outdoor environments that must be measured prior to licensure. Outdoor play space must be fenced. Indoor equipment must be clean, safe, well maintained, and developmentally appropriate. Indoor and outdoor equipment and furnishings must be child size, sturdy, and free of hazards that could injure children.

Licensed centers must also meet requirements in the following areas.

Staff Requirements
The administrator of a child care center must be at least 21 and have at least a North Carolina Early Childhood Administration Credential or its equivalent. Lead teachers in a child care center must be at least 18 and have at least a North Carolina Early Childhood Credential or its equivalent. If administrators and lead teachers do not meet this requirement, they must begin credential coursework within six months of being hired. Staff younger than 18 years of age must work under the direct supervision of staff 21 years of age or older. All staff must complete a minimum number of training hours, including ITS-SIDS training for any caregiver that works with infants 12 months of age or younger. All staff who work directly with children must have CPR and First Aid training, and at least one person who completed the training must be present at all times when children are in care. One staff must complete the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) in Child Care training and create the EPR plan. All staff must also undergo a criminal background check initially, and every three years thereafter.

Staff/Child Ratios
Ratios are the number of staff required to supervise a certain number of children. Group size is the maximum number of children in one group. Ratios and group sizes for licensure are shown below and must be posted in each classroom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Teacher: Child Ratio</th>
<th>Max Group Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-12 months</td>
<td>1:5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-24 months</td>
<td>1:6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years old</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 to 4 years old</td>
<td>1:15</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 to 5 years old</td>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 years and older</td>
<td>1:25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Staff/Child Ratio Information:
Centers located in a residence that are licensed for six to twelve children may keep up to three additional school-age children, depending on the ages of the other children in care. When the group has children of different ages, staff-child ratios and group size must be met for the youngest child in the group.

Reviewing Facility Information
From the Division’s Child care Facility Search Site, the facility and visit documentation can be viewed. A public file is maintained in the Division’s main office in Raleigh for every licensed center or family child care home. These files can be viewed during business hours (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) by contacting the Division at 919-814-6300 or 1-800-859-0829 or requested via the Division’s web site at www.ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov.

How to Report a Problem
North Carolina law requires staff from the Division of Child Development and Early Education to investigate a licensed family child care home or child care center when there has been a complaint. Child care providers who violate the law or rules may be issued an administrative action, fined and/or may have their licenses suspended or revoked.

Administrative actions must be posted in the facility. If you believe that a child care provider fails to meet the requirements described in this pamphlet, or if you have questions, please call the Division of Child Development and Early Education at 919-814-6300 or 1-800-859-0829.

Summary of the North Carolina Child Care Law and Rules (Center and FCCH)

Division of Child Development and Early Education
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
333 Six Forks Road
Raleigh, NC 27609

Child Care Commission
https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Home/Child-Care-Commission

Revised June 2019

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or provision of services.
Parents have the right to enter a family child care home and one or two children under 13 years of age are not counted. Providers who meet the following requirements:

- at least once a week
- relative
- every three years
- every three years
- at any time while their child is present.

Parents have the right to see the license, the laws and rules are developed to establish minimum standards and receive a license with a higher rating. Higher standards and receive a license with a higher rating than four consecutive months, such as summer camps, are sponsored programs which notify the Division of Child Care and receive proper care, supervision, appropriate discipline, or maltreatment. This occurs when a parent or caregiver, or center at any time while their child is present.

Child care consultancies. Licenses are issued to family child care home providers who meet the following requirements:

- Family child care homes and centers will be visited at least annually to make sure they are following the law and to receive technical assistance from child care consultants.

North Carolina Foundations for Early Learning and Development and Early Education that corporal punishment is prohibited in all regulations described below if they choose to meet the minimum licensing requirements will receive a one-star license. Centers and homes that are meeting higher standards can apply for a two through five-star rating. Four- and five-star programs must use an approved curriculum in classrooms serving four-year-olds. Other curriculum offerings may choose to use an approved curriculum or create an EPR plan. The meal choices for child care programs must meet the Meal Patterns for Children in Child Care. Food must be offered at least once every four hours.

- Three or more children under 13 years of age.
- Parents have the right to know how their child will be disciplined and developmentally appropriate behavior management strategies.

- Some counties and cities in North Carolina also have local zoning requirements for child care. Th is is responsible for regulating child care. The law defines child care as:

- what is child care?

- what is child care?