

QUALITY INDICATORS

Quality children's centers offer healthy, social, and educational experiences under qualified supervision in a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment. Children in these settings participate in daily, age-appropriate activities that help develop essential skills, build independence and instill self-respect.

When evaluating the quality of a children's center setting, the following indicators should be considered:

CAREGIVERS

- ▶▶ Are friendly and eager to care for children.
- ▶▶ Are aware of the presence and activities of all children in their care.
- ▶▶ Accept family cultural and ethnic differences.
- ▶▶ Are warm, understanding, encouraging, and responsive to each child's individual needs.
- ▶▶ Use a pleasant tone of voice and frequently talk with the children.
- ▶▶ Manage their behavior in a positive, constructive, and non-threatening manner.
- ▶▶ Allow children to play alone and in small groups.
- ▶▶ Are attentive to and interact with the children.
- ▶▶ Provide stimulating, interesting, and educational activities.
- ▶▶ Demonstrate knowledge of child development.
- ▶▶ Communicate with parents.

ENVIRONMENT

- ▶▶ Is a safe and secure environment that fosters the growing independence of all children.
- ▶▶ Is clean, safe, inviting, comfortable, and Child friendly.
- ▶▶ Has easy access to age-appropriate toys.
- ▶▶ Displays children's activities and creations.

ACTIVITIES

- ▶▶ Are children initiated and teacher facilitated.
- ▶▶ Include social interchanges with all children.
- ▶▶ Include play, painting, drawing, story telling, music, dancing, and other varied activities.
- ▶▶ Include daily exercise for development of both small and large motor skills.
- ▶▶ Include free play and organized activities.
- ▶▶ Include opportunities for all children to read, explore, problem solve, and be creative.

PARENT'S ROLE

The parent's role in quality child care is vital to its success. In partnering with the caregiver to achieve this goal, parents should:

- ▶▶ Provide complete and accurate enrollment and health records. Update information as needed.
- ▶▶ Become familiar with the child care standards required to license the children's center.
- ▶▶ Ask about staff turnover.
- ▶▶ Know the policies of the children's center.
- ▶▶ Communicate with the caregiver.
- ▶▶ Visit and observe the children's center.
- ▶▶ Participate in special activities, meetings, and conferences.
- ▶▶ Talk with child(ren) about daily experiences in the children's center.
- ▶▶ Arrange alternate care for a sick child.

PINELLAS COUNTY CHILDREN'S CENTERS GENERAL INFORMATION

For a listing of children's centers, contact Child Care Resource and Referral of Pinellas, Inc. at (727) 547-5750.

For an appointment to review a children's center file or to file a complaint contact the Child Care Licensing Program at (727) 507-4857.

For further information about child care in Florida or to view children's center inspection reports, visit the website:
www.myflorida.com/childcare

The statewide toll-free telephone number for reporting child abuse is 1-800-96 ABUSE (1-800-962-2873). Reports of suspected and actual cases of child physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect received through the Abuse Registry number are referred to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department for investigation.

KNOW YOUR CHILD'S CHILDREN'S CENTER

Nursery School * Kindergarten

Day Nursery * School Age Center



Our mission is to promote, protect and improve the health of all people in Pinellas County

Child Care Licensing Program

4175 East Bay Drive, Suite 350
Clearwater, FL 33764
Telephone 727-507-4857

www.pclb.org

The Child Care Licensing Program and its services are funded by the Juvenile Welfare Board and the Florida Department of Children and Family Services.

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**PINELLAS COUNTY
CHILDREN'S CENTERS
STANDARDS FOR LICENSING**

This children's center has met regulations found in Licensing Regulations Governing Pinellas County Children's Centers. A valid temporary permit or license, which bears the distinctive seals of Pinellas County and the Florida Department of Children and Family Services, is posted in a conspicuous place within the center. A valid temporary permit or license will also include: effective and expiration dates, a license number, capacity, and ages of children in care.

A LICENSED CHILDREN'S CENTER MUST:

- ▶▶ Adhere to its licensed capacity at all times.
- ▶▶ Post a schedule of daily activities.
- ▶▶ Have first aid and emergency procedures, and post evacuation diagrams in each room.
- ▶▶ Keep accurate, current daily attendance records and document a visual sweep of the entire premises at the end of each day.
- ▶▶ Provide parent(s) access to the children's center during normal hours of operation.
- ▶▶ Report suspected child abuse to the statewide toll-free telephone number.
- ▶▶ Provide a permission form for parents to allow the center to administer medication as necessary.
- ▶▶ Document required information when administering medication.
- ▶▶ Document accidents and incidents and obtain parents' signature(s).
- ▶▶ Maintain vehicles in safe condition if transportation is provided.
- ▶▶ Obtain parents' permission before transporting children.

**CHILDREN'S RECORDS
REQUIREMENTS**

The following documentation is required to be maintained in the children's center for each child in care:

- ▶▶ A signed statement that parent received a copy of this brochure.
- ▶▶ A statement signed by parent that enrollment information is complete and accurate.
- ▶▶ A signed statement that the children's center has provided parents a copy of the written disciplinary practices.
- ▶▶ A current health examination record (not required for school age children).
- ▶▶ A current Florida Certificate of Immunization (not required for school age children).
- ▶▶ An annual notarized Emergency Medical Release.
- ▶▶ Medical records that include special medical or dietary needs and a list of allergies, if applicable.
- ▶▶ Primary hours of care and days of week in care.
- ▶▶ Telephone numbers or instructions as to how to reach parents when children are in care.
- ▶▶ Hospital preference.
- ▶▶ Child's full, legal name, birth date, date of enrollment, current address and preferred name/nick name.
- ▶▶ Name, address, and telephone number of parent or legal guardian.
- ▶▶ Name, address, and telephone number of emergency person, other than parent or legal guardian.
- ▶▶ Name, address, and telephone number of physician and dentist.

PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

- ▶▶ Director has a Director Credential with the certificate posted.
- ▶▶ Documentation that staff meets the staff credentialing requirement (not required for school age centers).
- ▶▶ Completion of background screening.
- ▶▶ Completion of 40 Hour Introductory Child Care training.
- ▶▶ Completion of 10 hours training annually.
- ▶▶ Completion of early literacy training (not required for school age centers).
- ▶▶ Documentation of educational requirements.
- ▶▶ Meet minimum age requirements.
- ▶▶ Signed statements that employees understand the statutory requirement of reporting child abuse/neglect.
- ▶▶ Staff trained in first aid and CPR on the premises at all times and on field trips
- ▶▶ Staff maintain direct supervision including minimum adult-child ratios:
2 months-1 year 1 adult for 3 children
1 year-2 years 1 adult for 5 children
2 year olds 1 adult for 10 children
3 year olds 1 adult for 15 children
4 year olds 1 adult for 20 children
5 years and up 1 adult for 25 children

NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- ▶▶ Parents notified of meals provided that are of quality and quantity to assure child's nutritional needs are met or arrangements made for parents to provide nutritional food.
 - ▶▶ Posted meal and snack menus.
 - ▶▶ Safe drinking water is available.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- ▶▶ Has sufficient indoor space for playing and napping that is kept clean, adequately lighted, vented, and in good repair.
- ▶▶ Has indoor and outdoor space that is clean and free of litter and other hazards.
- ▶▶ Has toys, equipment and furnishings that are age and developmentally appropriate, and are maintained in an operable, safe, and sanitary condition.
- ▶▶ Has appropriate bathroom facilities that are operable, clean and sanitized (daily).
- ▶▶ Has isolation area for ill children.
- ▶▶ Has equipment for proper sanitary hand washing, toileting, and diapering activities.
- ▶▶ Has at least one corded, operable telephone available to staff.

**HEALTH RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL
REQUIREMENTS**

- ▶▶ Annual approved health and fire inspections conducted.
- ▶▶ Smoking is prohibited on premises.
- ▶▶ Storage of medication and hazardous materials in locked areas.
- ▶▶ Monthly fire drills conducted.
- ▶▶ A labeled, fully stocked first aid kit.
- ▶▶ Parents notified of all animals on site.
- ▶▶ Records of immunizations for animals/fowl.
- ▶▶ Prohibit fire arms or weapons on premises (excluding federal, state, and local law enforcement officers).
- ▶▶ Prohibit narcotics, alcohol, or other impairing drugs on the premises.