The 2008 Child Care Licensing Study

Pennsylvania
State Profile

LICENSING AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION		
Agency name: Bureau of Certification Services, Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare		
Address: 333 Market Street, 6th Floor		
City: Harrisburg	**State:** PA	**Zip:** 17101
Phone: 717-346-9320	**Toll free:** 877-4-PA-KIDS (877-472-5437, within state)	
Fax:	**Email:**	
Web site: www.dpw.state.pa.us/PartnersProviders/ChildCareEarlyEd/003678427.htm		

NUMBER OF LICENSED FACILITIES AND LICENSED CAPACITY		
Facility Type	**Number of Licensed Facilities**	**Licensed Capacity**
Child care centers	4,108	326,316
Small FCC homes	4,226	25,356
Large/Group FCC homes	823	9,683
Other types of licensed facilities	0	0
Total	**9,157**	**361,355**

NUMBER OF LICENSING SUPERVISORS, STAFF, AND CASELOADS	
Total number of full-time equivalent licensing supervisors	12
Total number of full-time equivalent line staff	58
Estimated caseload ratio (i.e., number of facilities per line staff)	158:1

Note: NCCIC/NARA calculated the estimated caseload by dividing the total number of licensed facilities (i.e., centers and FCC homes) by the total number of licensing line staff.

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FREQUENCY OF INSPECTIONS BY TYPE			
Type	**Child Care Centers**	**Small FCC Homes**	**Large/Group FCC Homes**
Prior to issuing a license	✓		✓
• Announced	✓		✓
• Unannounced			
License renewal	✓		✓
• Announced	✓		✓
• Unannounced			
Routine compliance	✓		✓
• Announced			
• Unannounced	✓		✓

FREQUENCY OF REQUIRED INSPECTION VISITS BY FACILITY TYPE	
Type	**Frequency**
Child care centers	Once a year
Small FCC homes	Facility not inspected
Large/Group FCC homes	Once a year

FREQUENCY OF LICENSE RENEWAL BY FACILITY TYPE	
Type	**Frequency**
Child care centers	Once a year
Small FCC homes	Once every 2 years
Large/Group FCC homes	Once a year

REGULATIONS SUMMARY	
Regulations Title	**Date**
Child care center regulations	
"Chapter 3270: Child Day Care Centers," in "Article I. Licensing/Approval," in "Title 55: Public Welfare," in *Pennsylvania Code*	9/22/2008
Small FCC home regulations	
"Chapter 3290: Family Child Day Care Homes," in "Article I. Licensing/Approval," in "Title 55: Public Welfare," in *Pennsylvania Code*	9/22/2008

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REGULATIONS SUMMARY, CON.	
Regulations Title	**Date**
Large/Group FCC home regulations	
"Chapter 3280: Group Child Day Care Homes," in "Article I. Licensing/Approval," in "Title 55: Public Welfare," in *Pennsylvania Code*	9/22/2008
Note: NCCIC/NARA used child care licensing regulations that were posted on the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education Web site between January 1, 2008, to December 31, 2008. Regulations titles were also copied directly from this site.	

DEFINITION OF LICENSED FCC HOMES	
Small FCC homes	
Number of children allowed	4–6
Maximum number of children to 1 provider	6
Provider's own children counted	Yes
Maximum number of infants and toddlers to 1 provider	5 toddlers, if no infants; 4 toddlers, if 1 infant; 3 toddlers, if 2 infants
Large/Group FCC homes	
Number of children allowed	7–12 (plus 3 SAC)
Ratio of children to 1 provider	See notes*
Provider's own children counted	Yes

CHILD-STAFF RATIOS AND GROUP SIZE BY AGE OF CHILDREN FOR CHILD CARE CENTERS		
Age of Children	**Child-Staff Ratio**	**Group Size**
6 weeks	4:1	8
9 months	4:1	8
18 months	5:1	10
27 months	6:1	12
3 years	10:1	20
4 years	10:1	20
5 years	10:1	20
6 years	12:1	24
7 years	12:1	24
8–9 years	12:1 or 15:1	24 or 30
10 years and older	15:1	30

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CRIMINAL BACKROUND CHECKS REQUIRED BY TYPE			
Type	**Child Care Centers**	**Small FCC Homes**	**Large/Group FCC Homes**
Criminal history records	✓	✓	✓
Fingerprints	✓	✓	✓
Child abuse and neglect registry	✓	✓	✓
Sex offender registry			
Signed statement about criminal status	✓	✓	✓

MINIMUM PRESERVICE QUALIFICATIONS AND ONGOING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS		
Role	**Minimum Preservice Qualifications**	**Ongoing Training Hours**
Child care center staff		
Director	Associate degree with credit hours in ECE	6
Master teacher	Associate degree with credit hours in ECE	6
Teacher	Experience (with high school diploma/GED)	6
Assistant teacher	At least an 8th grade education	6
Aide	NR	NR
Small FCC home providers		
Provider	None	12 every 2 years
Assistant provider	None	12 every 2 years
Large/Group FCC home providers		
Provider	Experience (with high school diploma/GED)	6
Assistant provider	At least an 8th grade education and experience	6

Key:
CCP = Certified Child Care Professional Credential awarded by the National Child Care Association
CDA = Child Development Associate Credential awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition
ECE = Early childhood education
FCC = Family child care
GED = General Educational Development Test
NA = Not applicable/not addressed
NAC = National Administrators Credential awarded by the National Child Care Association
NARA = National Association for Regulatory Administration
NC = No category of facility
NCCIC = National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center
NL = Not licensed
NR = Not regulated
SAC = School-age children

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***Notes:**

The following table provides the large/group FCC home child-staff ratios and group sizes allowed.

Same-Age Groupings			Mixed Ages		
Age	**Maximum Group Size**	**Child-Staff Ratio**	**Age**	**Maximum Group Size**	**Child-Staff Ratio**
Birth–12 months	12	4:1	Birth–36 months	12	4:1
13–24 months	12	5:1	13–36 months	12	5:1
25–36 months	12	6:1	25 months–6 years	12	6:1
37 months–6 years	12	10:1	37 months–8 years	12	10:1
6–8 years	12	12:1	6–15 years	12	12:1
9–15 years	15	15:1			