

CHAPTER 185

STANDARDS FOR LICENSED CHILD DAY CENTERS

PART I. INTRODUCTION

22VAC40-185-10. Definitions.

The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Adult" means any individual 18 years of age or older.

"Age and stage appropriate" means the curriculum, environment, equipment, and adult- child interactions are suitable for the ages of the children within a group and the individual needs of any child.

"Age groups":

1. "Infant" means children from birth to 16 months.
2. "Toddler" means children from 16 months up to two years.
3. "Preschool" means children from two years up to the age of eligibility to attend public school, five years by September 30.
4. "School age" means children eligible to attend public school, age five or older by September 30 of that same year. Four-year old or five-year-old children included in a group of school age children may be considered school age during the summer months if the children will be entering kindergarten that year.

"Attendance" means the actual presence of an enrolled child.

"Balanced mixed-age grouping" means a program using a curriculum designed to meet the needs and interests of children in the group and is planned for children who enter the program at three through five years of age. The enrollment in the balanced mixed- age grouping comprises a relatively even allocation of children in each of three ages (three to six years) and is designed for children and staff to remain together with turnover planned only for the replacement of exiting students with children of ages that maintain the class balance.

"Body fluids" means urine, feces, saliva, blood, nasal discharge, eye discharge, and injury or tissue discharge.

"Camp" means a child day camp that is a child day center for school age children that operates during the summer vacation months only. Four-year-old children who will be five by September 30 of the same year may be included in a camp for school age children.

"Center" means a child day center.

"Child" means any individual under 18 years of age.

"Child day center" means a child day program offered to (i) two or more children younger than 13 years of age in a facility that is not the residence of the provider or of any of the children in care or (ii) 13 or more children at any location.

"Child day program" means a regularly operating service arrangement for children where, during the absence of a parent or guardian, a person or organization has agreed to assume responsibility for the supervision, protection, and well-being of a child younger than 13 years of age for less than a 24-hour period.

Note: This does not include programs such as drop-in playgrounds or clubs for children when there is no service arrangement with the child's parent.

"Children with special needs" means children with developmental disabilities, mental retardation, emotional disturbance, sensory or motor impairment, or significant chronic illness who require special health surveillance or specialized programs, interventions, technologies, or facilities.

"Cleaned" means treated in such a way to reduce the amount of filth through the use of water with soap or detergent or the use of an abrasive cleaner on inanimate surfaces.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Social Services.

"Communicable disease" means a disease caused by a microorganism (bacterium, virus, fungus, or parasite) that can be transmitted from person to person via an infected body fluid or respiratory spray, with or without an intermediary agent (such as a louse, mosquito) or environmental object (such as a table surface). Some communicable diseases are reportable to the local health authority.

"Department" means the Virginia Department of Social Services.

"Department's representative" means an employee or designee of the Virginia Department of Social Services, acting as the authorized agent of the commissioner.

"Evening care" means care provided after 7 p.m. but not through the night.

"Good character and reputation" means knowledgeable and objective people agree that the individual (i) maintains business, professional, family, and community relationships which are characterized by honesty, fairness, and truthfulness and (ii) demonstrates a concern for the well-being of others to the extent that the individual is considered suitable to be entrusted with the care, guidance, and protection of children. Relatives by blood or marriage and people who are not knowledgeable of the individual, such as recent acquaintances, shall not be considered objective references.

"Group of children" means the children assigned to a staff member or team of staff member.

"High school program completion or the equivalent" means an individual has earned a high school diploma or General Education Development (G.E.D.) certificate, or has completed a program of home instruction equivalent to high school completion.

"Independent contractor" means an entity that enters into an agreement to provide specialized services or staff for a specified period of time.

"Individual service, education or treatment plan" means a plan identifying the child's strengths, needs, general functioning and plan for providing services to the child. The service plan includes specific goals and objectives for services, accommodations and intervention strategies. The service, education or treatment plan clearly shows documentation and reassessment or evaluation strategies.

"Intervention strategies" means a plan for staff action that outlines methods, techniques, cues, programs, or tasks that enable the child to successfully complete a specific goal.

"Licensee" means any individual, partnership, association, public agency, or corporation to whom the license is issued.

"Minor injury" means a wound or other specific damage to the body such as, but not limited to, abrasions, splinters, bites that do not break the skin, and bruises.

"Overnight care" means care provided after 7 p.m. and through the night.

"Parent" means the biological or adoptive parent or legal guardian of a child enrolled in or in the process of being admitted to a center.

"Physician" means an individual licensed to practice medicine in any of the 50 states or the District of Columbia.

"Physician's designee" means a physician, licensed nurse practitioner, licensed physician assistant, licensed nurse (R.N. or L.P.N.), or health assistant acting under the supervision of a physician.

"Primitive camp" means a camp where places of abode, water supply system, or permanent toilet and cooking facilities are not usually provided. "Programmatic experience" means time spent working directly with children in a group that is located away from the child's home. Work time shall be computed on the basis of full-time work experience during the period prescribed or equivalent work time over a longer period. Experience settings may include a child day program, family day home, child day center, boys and girls club, field placement, elementary school, or a faith-based organization.

"Resilient surfacing" means:

1. For indoor and outdoor use underneath and surrounding equipment, impact absorbing surfacing materials that comply with minimum safety standards when tested in accordance with the procedures described in the American Society for Testing and Materials' standard F1292-99 as shown in Figures 2 (Compressed Loose Fill Synthetic Materials Depth Chart) and 3 (Use Zones for Equipment) on pages 6-7 of the National Program for Playground Safety's "Selecting Playground Surface Materials: Selecting the Best Surface Material for Your Playground," February 2004.
2. Hard surfaces such as asphalt, concrete, dirt, grass or flooring covered by carpet or gym mats do not qualify as resilient surfacing.

"Sanitized" means treated in such a way to remove bacteria and viruses from inanimate surfaces through using a disinfectant solution (i.e., bleach solution or commercial chemical disinfectant) or physical agent (e.g., heat). The surface of item is sprayed or dipped into the disinfectant solution and allowed to air dry after use of the disinfectant solution.

"Serious injury" means a wound or other specific damage to the body such as, but not limited to, unconsciousness; broken bones; dislocation; deep cut requiring stitches; concussion; or foreign object lodged in eye, nose, ear, or other body orifice.

"Shelter-in-place" means the facility or building in which a child day center is located.

"Short-term program" means a child day center that operates less than 12 weeks a year.

"Special needs child day program" means a program exclusively serving children with special needs.

"Specialty camps" means those centers that have an educational or recreational focus on one subject such as dance, drama, music, or sports.

"Sponsor" means an individual, partnership, association, public agency, corporation or other legal entity in whom the ultimate authority and legal responsibility is vested for the administration and operation of a center subject to licensure.

"Staff" means administrative, activity, and service personnel including the licensee when the licensee is an individual who works in the center, and any persons counted in the staff-to-children ratios or any persons working with a child without sight and sound supervision of a staff member.

"Staff positions" are defined as follows:

1. "Aide" means the individual designated to be responsible for helping the program leader in supervising children and in implementing the activities and services for children. Aides may also be referred to as assistant teachers or child care assistants.
2. "Program leader" means the individual designated to be responsible for the direct supervision of children and for implementation of the activities and services for a group of children. Program leaders may also be referred to as child care supervisors or teachers.
3. "Program director" means the primary, onsite director or coordinator designated to be responsible for developing and implementing the activities and services offered to children, including the supervision, orientation, training, and scheduling of staff who work directly with children, whether or not personally performing these functions.

4. "Administrator" means a manager or coordinator designated to be in charge of the total operation and management of one or more centers. The administrator may be responsible for supervising the program director or, if appropriately qualified, may concurrently serve as the program director. The administrator may perform staff orientation or training or program development functions if the administrator meets the qualifications of 22VAC15-30-23022VAC40-185-190 and a written delegation of responsibility specifies the duties of the program director.

"Therapeutic child day program" means a specialized program, including therapeutic recreation programs, exclusively serving children with special needs when an individual service, education or treatment plan is developed and implemented with the goal of improving the functional abilities of the children in care.

"Universal precautions" means an approach to infection control. According to the concept of universal precautions, all human blood and certain human body fluids are treated as if known to be infectious for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and other bloodborne pathogens.

"Volunteer" means a person who works at the center and:

1. Is not paid;
2. Is not counted in the staff-to-children ratios; and
3. Is in sight and sound supervision of a staff member when working with a child.

Any unpaid person not meeting this definition shall be considered "staff" and shall meet staff requirements.

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22VAC40-185-20. Legal base.

- A. Chapters 17 (§ 63.2-1700 et seq.) and 18 (§ 63.2-1800 et seq.) of Title 63.2 of the Code of Virginia describes the responsibility of the Department of Social Services for the regulation of residential and day programs for children, including child day centers.
- B. Section 63.2-1734 of the Code of Virginia requires the State Board of Social Services to prescribe standards for certain activities, services, and facilities for child day centers.
- C. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to contradict or to negate any provisions of the Code of Virginia which may apply to child day centers.

22VAC40-185-30. Purpose and applicability.

- A. The purpose of these standards is to protect children under the age of 13 who are separated from their parents during a part of the day by:
 - 1. Ensuring that the activities, services, and facilities of centers are conducive to the well-being of children; and
 - 2. Reducing risks in the environment.
- B. The standards in this chapter apply to child day centers as defined in 22VAC40-185-10 serving children under the age of 13.

5. Exceptions to training requirements are as follows:
 - a. Staff who drive a vehicle transporting children and do not work with a group of children at the center do not need to meet the annual training requirement.
 - b. In a cooperative preschool center that is organized, administered, and maintained by parents of children in care, parent volunteers or other persons who participate and volunteer in a cooperative preschool center on behalf of a child attending such cooperative preschool center, including such volunteers who are counted in the staff-to child ratios required in 22VAC40-185-340, shall complete four hours of training per year and shall be exempt from orientation and training requirements applicable to staff of child day programs. This orientation and training exemption shall not apply to any parent volunteer or other person as referred to in this subdivision if the cooperative preschool center has entered into a contract with the Department or a local department to provide child care services funded by the Child Care and Development Block Grant.
 - c. Staff who are employed at a short-term program shall obtain 10 hours of staff training per year.
- D. Medication administration and daily health observation
 1. To safely perform medication administration practices listed in 22VAC40-185-510, whenever the center has agreed to administer prescribed medications, the administration shall be performed by a staff member or independent contractor who has satisfactorily completed a training program for this purpose approved by the Board of Nursing and taught by a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, doctor of medicine or osteopathic medicine, or pharmacist; or administration shall be performed by a staff member or independent contractor who is licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia to administer medications.
 - a. The approved training curriculum and materials shall be reviewed by the department at least every three years and revised as necessary.
 - b. Staff required to have the training shall be retrained at three-year intervals.
 2. The decision to administer medicines at a facility may be limited by center policy to:
 - a. Prescribed medications;
 - b. Over-the-counter or nonprescription medications; or
 - c. No medications except those required for emergencies or by law.