

## Types of Child Care

PLEASE NOTE: It is important to always ask to see the provider's certificate or license for the number and ages of children they are certified or licensed to care for at one time. Additionally, on April 1, 2007 a new law went into effect that requires any person who provides care and supervision to children under age 5 in a regulated child care program to have training in shaken baby syndrome prevention.

**State Licensed Care** ~ Wisconsin law requires that a person must obtain a license to operate a child care business if they care for four or more unrelated children under the age of seven years. Child care licensing regulations require that a child care program must meet minimum health, safety and training regulations. For more information on licensing visit: [http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/rl\\_dcfs/](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/rl_dcfs/)

- **Group Child Care Centers** provide care for 9 or more children at one time. They may serve infants, toddlers, preschoolers and/or school-age children for a full or part day. The number of children and teachers in a class depends on the ages of the children in each group.
- **Family Day Care** programs care for 4 to 8 children in their own home. They may serve infants, toddlers, preschoolers and/or school-age children for a full or part day. The maximum number of children in a family child care varies by the ages of the children present.

The licensing regulations set standards for adequate care to protect children's health, safety and well-being. Always remember that a child care license does not guarantee quality child care. It assures that the provider has met minimum state regulated standards at the time of licensing.

**County Certified Family Child Care** ~ In Wisconsin, county human service departments can certify family child care providers to care for up to 6 children. There are two levels of county certification.

- **Regular certification** requires that a provider complete initial training requirements, but does not require annual or on-going training.
- **Provisional certification** requires no initial, annual, or on-going training.

## Your Child Care Search

Use the following checklist to measure the quality of each child care center or home you visit.

Location 1	Location 2	Location 3	Standards
			The caregivers are warm, friendly and supportive.
			The caregivers speak to the child at the child's eye level.
			The caregivers are respectful of different cultural values.
			The setting is pleasant, clean and comfortable.
			The setting is large enough so children can move freely and safely.
			A balance of quiet/active and indoor/outdoor activities is planned.
			Age appropriate activities are planned and posted.
			Enough clean and safe toys are available to all children.
			Areas are free of hazards (poisons, sharp objects, etc.)
			Emergency numbers are posted.
			Good health habits are encouraged with children.
			Illness and emergency policies are available.
			Discipline practices are appropriate and effective.
			Children are comforted when needed.
			Unannounced visits by family are encouraged.
			Children seem happily occupied and relaxed.
			Opportunities for parent/caregiver communication on a daily basis.
			<i>Infant/Toddler Considerations:</i>
			Baby-proofed areas (outlets, gates, toys).
			Babies receive warm, cuddling affection.
			Schedules are based on infant's needs, not planned activities.
			Staffed are trained in infant/toddler care.
			<i>School Age Considerations:</i>
			Activities are varied and allow freedom to choose.
			Activities are specific to needs of older children.
			Transportation is provided safely.

## TYPES OF CHILD CARE AND MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS	LEVEL II PROVISIONALLY CERTIFIED	LEVEL I REGULARLY CERTIFIED	LICENSED FAMILY	LICENSED GROUP
Health and Safety Requirements	*	*	*	*
Additional Health and Safety Requirements			*	*
Written Policies and Procedures			*	*
15-20 hour Certification Course		*		
6-8 hour Family Child Care Course		*	*	
40 hour Early Childhood Course			*	* plus additional courses
10 hour Infant and Toddler Course			* if caring for children birth to 2 years of age	* if caring for children birth to 2 years of age
15 hours of continuing education per year			*	* if working fewer than 20 hours per week
25 hours of continuing education per year				* if working more than 20 hours per week
TB Test	*	*	*	*
Criminal Background Checks/Care Giver Background Check	*	*	*	*
Initial Site Visit	*	*	*	*
6 month probationary visit			*	*
Site Visit at least every year			*	*
Site Visit every 2 years	*	*		
Infant/Child CPR Certification			*	*
Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Training◆	* if caring for children birth to 5 years of age	* if caring for children birth to 5 years of age	* if caring for children birth to 5 years of age	* if caring for children birth to 5 years of age
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Training◆	* if caring for children birth to 2 years of age	* if caring for children birth to 2 years of age	* if caring for children birth to 2 years of age	* if caring for children birth to 2 years of age

**DID YOU KNOW?** Chapter 48, Wisconsin Law states, “No person shall for compensation provide care and supervision for four or more children under the age of seven for less than 24 hours a day unless he obtains a license to operate a day care center from the Department of Health and Family Services.”

◆ These two topics are currently being covered in the entry-level courses