Presentation Notes for Know the Standards: Center-Based and Home-Based Child Care Programs

Slide 1

Know the Standards: Center-Based and Home-Based Child Care Programs

Child Guidance
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What is the Difference Between Center-Based care and Home-Based Care?

Center based care is day care provided for 13 or more children for less than 24 hours/day.

Home based care is day care provided for no more than 12 children for less than 24 hours/day in the caregiver's residence.

Day care that is provided in the caregiver's residence for no more than 12 children for less than 24 hours per day, such as listed family homes, registered child care homes, and licensed child care homes are called home based care.
What are the Types of Child Day Care Operations?

- Listed Family Home
- Registered Child-Care Home

**Listed Family Home:** A caregiver provides care in the caregiver's own home for three or fewer children unrelated to the caregiver, birth through 13 years old, for at least four hours a day, three or more days a week, and more than nine consecutive weeks. The total number of children in care, including children related to the caregiver, may not exceed 12.

**Registered Child-Care Home:** A caregiver provides regular care in the caregiver's own home for not more than six children from birth through 13 years old, and may provide care after school hours for not more than six additional elementary school children. The total number of children in care at any given time, including the children related to the caregiver, must not exceed 12.
What are the Types of Child Day Care Operations?

- Licensed Child-Care Home
- Licensed Center
- Child Care Program

**Licensed Child-Care Home**: The caregiver provides care in the caregiver’s own home for children from birth through 13 years old. The total number of children in care varies with the ages of the children, but the total number of children in care at any given time, including the children related to the caregiver, must not exceed 12.

**Licensed Center**: An operation providing care for seven or more children under 14 years old for less than 24 hours per day at a location other than the permit holder’s home.

**Child Care Program**: Is a licensed center that provides care for children under 14 years of age for less than 24 hours a day, but at least two hours a day, three or more days a week.
What are the Types of Child Day Care Operations?

- Before or After-School Program
- School-Age Program

**Before or After-School Program:** Is a licensed center that provides care before or after, or before and after, the customary school day and during school holidays, for at least two hours a day, three days a week, to children who attend prekindergarten through grade six.

**School-Age Program:** Is a licensed center that provides supervision, along with recreation or skills instruction or training, and may provide transportation, before or after the customary school day, for at least two hours a day, three days a week, to children attending prekindergarten through grade six. A school-age program may also operate during school holidays, the summer period, or any other time when school is not in session.
Texas Child Care Licensing (CCL)

Child Care Licensing Responsibilities
Regulates all child-care operations and child-placing agencies to protect the health, safety, and well-being of children in care, largely by reducing the risk of injury, abuse, and communicable disease.

Child Care Licensing responsibilities include:

• Regulates all child-care operations and child-placing agencies to protect the health, safety, and well-being of children in care, largely by reducing the risk of injury, abuse, and communicable disease.
• Establishes and monitors operations and agencies for compliance with licensing standards, rules, and law.
• Informs parents and the public about child care and about the histories of specific homes, child-care operations, and child-placing agencies in complying with minimum standards of care.
• Provides technical assistance to providers on meeting licensing standards, rules, and law.
Chapter 42 of the Texas Human Resources Code. PDF document requires the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS) to regulate child care and child-placing activities in Texas, to investigate alleged abuse/neglect in child-care facilities, and to create and enforce minimum standards. It can be viewed at: http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/documents/Child_Care/Child_Care_Standards_and_Regulations/42_THRC.pdf

Charged with this task, the Child Care Licensing division of DFPS develops rules for child-care in Texas. Once proposed, reviewed, and adopted, these rules become part of the Texas Administrative Code (Child Care Licensing Rules). Each set of Minimum Standards is based on a particular chapter of the Texas Administrative Code and the corresponding child-care operation permit type(s). The Minimum Standards are designed to mitigate risk for children in out-of-home care settings by outlining basic requirements to protect the health, safety, and well-being of children in care.
Each of the Child Care Licensing Minimum Standards in Texas has been assigned a weight (High, Medium High, Medium, Medium Low, or Low) based on the risk that a violation of that standard presents to children. *Weights are noted within the minimum standards documents in the left margin next to each standard or subsection. Only those standards that can be violated (marked as a deficiency) are weighted. For example, definitions are not weighted.*

Assigning weights to the Minimum Standards takes into account the relative importance of standard violations and helps facilitate a clear and common understanding of risk among providers, consumers, and Licensing staff. When child-care providers and Licensing staff have the same understanding regarding the risk associated with each standard deficiency, they can use this information as a guide in correcting deficiencies and setting priorities when making corrections. While weights reflect the risk to children if a rule is violated, the assigned weights do not change based on the scope or severity of the specific circumstances surrounding an actual deficiency. In addition to the weights of the standards, licensing staff considers, assess, and document scope and severity factors when making licensing decisions.
What Does it Mean if an Operation is “Accredited”?

An operation is accredited when it elects to follow higher standards established by an accrediting organization.

These standards are higher than the required minimum standards established by Department of Family and Protective Services Licensing division.
Accreditation—Family Child Care

When you go off to work or school you want to have the peace of mind that your little one is getting the highest quality care available. So when searching for child care, you will likely want to find a provider who has gone above and beyond the usual licensing process. http://youtu.be/2_wwfgAwZhY
The agency’s Child-Care Licensing (CCL) division is responsible for protecting the health, safety, and well-being of children who attend or live in regulated child-care operations and homes. Using the process set by Chapter 42 of the Human Resources Code, they develop minimum standards for regulated operations and homes as well as policies and procedures for enforcing those minimum standards. They provide technical assistance, training, and consultation to child-care providers, and educate the public on selecting and improving child care services.
Accreditation for Daycare Centers
Daycare center accreditation goes above and beyond the traditional state requirements, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children is a well-known organization that many child care facilities join.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PfqssBxUfU&feature=share&list=SP9C803130246849A

Why is it important to select a daycare center that goes above and beyond to obtain accreditation?
Licensed operations must have at least one annual unannounced inspection. Registered child care homes must have at least one unannounced inspection every two years. The frequency of additional inspections will fluctuate, depending on the type of permit and an operation’s ability to comply with the Licensing standards, rules, and law. Licensing staff inspect new operations frequently in order to offer technical assistance and establish a record of compliance with the standards, rules, and law. Once a record of compliance is established, an operation’s ability to remain in compliance determines how frequently an operation may be inspected. When operations have serious deficiencies or a significant number of deficiencies, repeat deficiencies, or fail to make corrections timely, they are inspected more frequently by licensing staff, to monitor the level of risk to children.
Daycare at its BEST in Houston

Child Care Daycare Preschool Services Houston TX. We offer Nationally Acclaimed Curriculum, Internet Monitoring, Security and more is yours at this highly rated Cypress Texas childcare program.
http://youtu.be/Qve3wBFkiZM
Evaluating Guidelines

- Parents must be diligent in finding the best care for their child
- Meet with the caregiver or director.
- Parents must research the child care center to make sure that meets their standards such as:
  - Caregivers
  - Teachers
  - Settings
  - Activities
  - Discipline
  - Regulations and Licenses
Evaluating Providers-
Caregivers/Teachers

Ask the following questions:
• Do the caregivers/teachers seem to really like children?
• Do the caregivers/teachers get down on each child's level to speak with the child?
• Are children greeted when they arrive?

Caregivers/Teachers

Additional questions to ask:
• Are children's needs quickly met even when things get busy?
• Are the caregivers/teachers trained in CPR, first aid, and early childhood education?
• Are the caregivers/teachers involved in continuing education programs?
• Does the program keep up with children's changing interests?
• Will the caregivers/teachers always be ready to answer your questions?
• Will the caregivers/teachers tell you what your child is doing every day?
• Are parents' ideas welcomed? Are there ways for you to get involved?
• Do the caregivers/teachers and children enjoy being together?
• Is there enough staff to serve the children? (Ask local experts about the best staff/child ratios for different age groups.)
• Are caregivers/teachers trained and experienced?
• Have they participated in early childhood development classes?
Evaluating Providers-Settings

- Is the atmosphere bright and pleasant?
- Is there a fenced-in outdoor play area with a variety of safe equipment?
- Can the caregivers/teachers see the entire playground at all times?

Setting
Additional questions to ask:
• Are there different areas for resting, quiet play and active play?
• Is there enough space for the children in all of these areas?

Why is it important to ask these questions?
Evaluating Providers-Activities

• Is there a daily balance of play time, story time, activity time and nap time?
• Are the activities right for each age group?
• Are there enough toys and learning materials for the number of children?
• Are toys clean, safe and within reach of the children?

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Are the activities right for each age group?
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Evaluating Providers—In General

- Do you agree with the discipline practices?
- Do you hear the sounds of happy children?
- Are children comforted when needed?

In General
Do you agree with the discipline practices?
Do you hear the sounds of happy children?
Are children comforted when needed?
Is the program licensed or regulated?
Are surprise visits by parents encouraged?
Will your child be happy there?
Tips for Parents

What to Look For:
Research your options. Find a licensed or registered day care in your area and check its inspection record at TXChildCareSearch.org.

• Visit the day care while children are there and look for features that will help your child thrive.
• Meet and interview the caregiver or director.
Tips for Parents

Once my child is in care, how do I ensure care stays at my standards?

Keep talking with the caregiver.

Good communication with your child and child's caregiver is vital from the very beginning and will help ensure good care for your child.

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Good communication with your child and child's caregiver is vital from the very beginning and will help ensure good care for your child.

Talk to the operation director or provider about their policies and make sure to sign and read a contract. A contract should cover issues like fee payments, late fees, operation holidays, and who provides snacks and meals.

Many homes or centers share weekly activity plans and menus. Ask to see them.

Ask about your child's behavior, interactions and progress.
Tips for Parents

Once my child is in care, how do I ensure care stays at my standards?

Keep talking with your child.

Ask your child about their day, what they did, whom they saw or anything special that day.

Ask your child about their day, what they did, whom they saw or anything special that day. If your child doesn’t want to return to care, talk with your child and find out why. Talk to the caregiver if anything unusual seems to have happened.
Tips for Parents

Once my child is in care, how do I ensure care stays at my standards?

Talk to Child Care Licensing, if necessary.
Report problems.

To report your concerns, locate your local DFPS Child Care Licensing office on the DFPS Website, www.txchildcaresearch.org, or call the child-care information line at 1-800-862-5252.

If you think any child's health or safety is jeopardized in a child-care setting, report your concerns immediately to your local Child Care Licensing office. You can also file a report with Child Care Licensing if you have other concerns that you cannot resolve with your child's caregiver. All reports are taken seriously. To report your concerns, locate your local DFPS Child Care Licensing office on the DFPS Website, www.txchildcaresearch.org, or call the child-care information line at 1-800-862-5252.
A licensed center or home or a registered home that fails to maintain the health and safety standards could have sanctions imposed upon it. In addition to inspecting licensed and registered child-care operations and homes, CCL investigates allegations of abuse or neglect and other alleged violations of standards and laws.
Child Safety Campaigns

- **Don't Be In the Dark About Child Care** campaign on dangers of unregulated child care.
- **Room to Breathe** campaign on safe sleeping practices for infants.
- **Watch Kids Around Water** campaign on water safety for children, at home and outdoors.

Child Safety Campaigns

**Don't Be In the Dark About Child Care** campaign on dangers of unregulated child care  
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Child Safety Campaigns

- Car Safety: Look Before You Lock
- Information on Shaken Baby Syndrome and Sudden Infant Death (SIDS)
- Healthy Child Care America (External Link)
Child Safety Campaigns

Keep Children Safe Poster
English Color PDF Document | English B&W PDF Document
Spanish Color PDF Document | Spanish B&W PDF Document

Obtaining a Child Abuse Central Registry Check in Each State

Texas Department of Public Transportation FAQs Child Passenger Safety and Seat Belt Transportation Safety Training Requirements

Public education campaign about dangers of small turtles to children younger than 5 years old
Don't Be in the Dark About Child Care
The Child Care Licensing division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) urges parents to do some homework before putting their children in someone else's hands and choose childcare that's following the law. The goals of the annual "Don't be in the Dark About Child Care" campaign are to educate parents about the dangers of illegal child care and to encourage centers and homes that aren't operating legally to step into the light and get a permit. For more information, visit http://www.DontBeInTheDark.org. http://youtu.be/SY2MvWZE3Gg
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Their mission:
“The mission of The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services is to protect children, the elderly, and people with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation by involving clients, families, and communities.”

The abuse/hotlines are to:
• Report abuse
• Hotlines
• Inquiries and Complaints
• Report Fraud, Waste, or Abuse
• State Auditor’s Fraud Hotline
## References and Resources

Microsoft Clip Art: Used with permission from Microsoft.

**Textbook:**

**Websites:**
- **Child Care.gov**
  ChildCare.gov is a comprehensive online resource designed to link parents, child care providers, researchers, policymakers and the general public with Federal Government sponsored child care and early learning information and resources both quickly and easily.
- **Fight BAC! Goes to Child Care**
  Seven sets of fact sheets to help food safety and health professionals in their work to train childcare workers developed by Clemson University.
- **Texas Department of Family and Protective Services**
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  [http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Information_for_Parents/what_we_do.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Information_for_Parents/what_we_do.asp)
References and Resources

YouTube™:

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