



We Can Do Better

Child Care Aware® of America's Ranking of
State Child Care Center Regulations and Oversight

2013 Update



Acknowledgements

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About Child Care Aware® of America

Child Care Aware® of America is our nation's leading voice for child care. We work with more than 600 state and local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies to help ensure that all families in the United States have access to quality, affordable child care. To achieve our mission, we lead projects that increase the quality and availability of child care, offer comprehensive training to child care professionals, undertake groundbreaking research and advocate child care policies that improve the lives of children and families. To learn more about Child Care Aware® of America and how you can join us in ensuring access to quality child care for all families, visit www.usa.childcareaware.org.

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Executive Summary

This report marks the seventh year that Child Care Aware® of America (formerly NACCRRA, the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies) has undertaken a review of state child care program requirements and oversight.

We Can Do Better: Child Care Aware® of America's Ranking of State Child Care Center Regulations and Oversight: 2013 Update is the fourth review of child care center policies. The previous three reports were released in 2007, 2009 and 2011.

We Can Do Better is a companion to *Leaving Children to Chance*, a series of reports released in 2008, 2010 and 2012 that scored and ranked states based on their requirements and oversight for small family child care homes.

State Child Care Center Licensing

Each week, nearly 11 million children under age 5 are in some type of child care setting for an average of 35 hours.

Parents, as consumers of child care, equate a child care license with state approval – a gold seal for those businesses to which a state grants a license. Therefore, Child Care Aware® of America reviews state licensing policies, which include both program requirements and oversight, to better understand the settings that states have given approval to for the care of our nation's children.

We Can Do Better

The 2013 *We Can Do Better* report scores 51 states (including the *District of Columbia*) and the

Department of Defense (*DoD*) on key aspects of their child care centers.

Child Care Aware® of America used 15 benchmarks that represent the most basic research-based criteria. Eleven program requirements were scored as were four oversight elements. Scores were used to develop three rankings:

- An overall ranking combining the scores for both program requirements and oversight.
- A ranking for child care center program requirements.
- A ranking for child care center oversight.

The average score was 92 - 61 percent of all possible points, a grade of D for many school children.

Overall Condition of Child Care Centers

Progress has been made in many states since Child Care Aware® of America's 2007 report, however, more progress is needed to really ensure that children are safe and in a quality setting.

Scores for the top 10 states ranged from 130 to 106.

No state earned an "A" and only *DoD* earned a "B." The remaining top 10 states (*New York, Washington, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin, Delaware, Illinois, Minnesota and Tennessee*) earned a "C." Twenty-one states earned a "D," and the remaining 20 states earned a score of 60 or less, a failing grade.

- One state (*New York*) and *DoD* are in the top 10 for total scores and are also in the top 10 for both program requirement and oversight scores.

However, some states that scored well in program requirements did not score well in oversight of the regulations. Some states with strong oversight policies did not have strong program requirements.

- Three states (*Massachusetts*, *New Jersey* and *Rhode Island*) are in the top 10 for program standards and the bottom 10 for oversight.

- Two states (*Arkansas* and *South Carolina*) are in the top 10 for oversight and in the bottom 10 for program requirements.

- Three states (*California*, *Idaho* and *Nebraska*) are in the bottom 10 for both program requirements and oversight scores.

Child Care Center Total Scores and Ranking

The following table shows states that scored in the top 10 and the bottom 10 for total scores (combined program requirement and oversight) and ranking.

Total Scores and Rankings for Child Care Center Program Requirements and Oversight Top 10 States and Bottom 10 States							
Top 10 States				Bottom 10 States			
State	Final Score	Percent of Total	Rank	State	Final Score	Percent of Total	Rank
Department of Defense	130	87%	1	Arkansas	82	55%	41
New York	116	77%	2	Connecticut	82	55%	41
Washington	114	76%	3	Mississippi	82	55%	41
North Dakota	112	75%	4	Iowa	81	54%	44
Oklahoma	112	75%	4	South Carolina	80	53%	45
Texas	112	75%	4	Wyoming	79	53%	46
Wisconsin	110	73%	7	Maine	76	51%	47
Delaware	108	72%	8	Alabama	67	45%	48
Illinois	108	72%	8	Louisiana	57	38%	49
Minnesota	106	71%	10	California	51	34%	50
Tennessee	106	71%	10	Nebraska	47	31%	51
				Idaho	23	15%	52
Total possible score is 150							

The following table shows the total score, percent of total score and rankings for all the states in alphabetical order.

Total Child Care Center Scores and Ranks for All States in Alphabetical Order			
States	Final Score	Percent of Total Score	Rank
Alabama	67	45%	48
Alaska	88	59%	35
Arizona	96	64%	22
Arkansas	82	55%	41
California	51	34%	50
Colorado	88	59%	35
Connecticut	82	55%	42
Delaware	108	72%	8
Department of Defense	130	87%	1

Total Child Care Center Scores and Ranks for All States in Alphabetical Order

States	Final Score	Percent of Total Score	Rank
District of Columbia	103	69%	15
Florida	95	63%	25
Georgia	96	64%	22
Hawaii	83	55%	40
Idaho	23	15%	52
Illinois	108	72%	8
Indiana	105	70%	12
Iowa	81	54%	44
Kansas	93	62%	28
Kentucky	85	57%	39
Louisiana	57	38%	49
Maine	76	51%	47
Maryland	98	65%	18
Massachusetts	98	65%	18
Michigan	92	61%	29
Minnesota	106	71%	10
Mississippi	82	55%	43
Missouri	90	60%	33
Montana	86	57%	38
Nebraska	47	31%	51
Nevada	92	61%	29
New Hampshire	104	69%	13
New Jersey	99	66%	17
New Mexico	95	63%	25
New York	116	77%	2
North Carolina	97	65%	21
North Dakota	112	75%	4
Ohio	90	60%	33
Oklahoma	112	75%	4
Oregon	91	61%	32
Pennsylvania	96	64%	22
Rhode Island	94	63%	27
South Carolina	80	53%	45
South Dakota	92	61%	29
Tennessee	106	71%	10
Texas	112	75%	4
Utah	101	67%	16
Vermont	88	59%	35
Virginia	104	69%	13
Washington	114	76%	3
West Virginia	98	65%	18
Wisconsin	110	73%	7
Wyoming	79	53%	46

The following table shows the scores and ranks for the top 10 states for program requirements and the top 10 states for oversight requirements.

Top 10 States for Program Requirements Scores and Ranks			Top 10 States for Oversight Scores and Ranks		
State	Program Scores and Rank		State	Oversight Scores and Rank	
	Score	Rank		Score	Rank
Department of Defense	95	1	Arkansas	38	1
Massachusetts	93	2	North Carolina	37	2
New Jersey	90	3	Oklahoma	37	2
Wisconsin	88	4	Virginia	36	4
Rhode Island	87	5	Department of Defense	35	5
Minnesota	86	6	Florida	34	6
North Dakota	86	6	New York	34	6
Delaware	85	8	Texas	33	8
Washington	83	9	Utah	33	8
District of Columbia	82	10	South Carolina	32	10
Illinois	82	10			
Indiana	82	10			
New York	82	10			
Total possible program score is 110			Total possible oversight score is 40		

Report Highlights

Background Checks: A comprehensive background check includes a fingerprint check against state and federal records, a check of the child abuse registry and a check of the sex offender registry.

Thirteen states improved their background check requirements since the 2011 report (*Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming*).

- Thirty-one states plus DoD now require a fingerprint check against FBI records for child care center staff compared to 27 states plus DoD in 2011.
- Twenty-three states now require a check of the sex offender registry compared to 17 in 2011.

- Overall, only 13 states (*Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee and Washington*) conduct a comprehensive background check.

- Nine of these states (*Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Washington*) conduct a comprehensive check of both family child care homes and child care centers.

Training requirements

Training makes a difference in the quality of care and quality child care matters for the safety and healthy development of children.

Four states had significant increases in annual training hours required for child care center staff. Training hours matter so that a list of topics does not become a checklist only.

- *Arkansas* increased center staff annual training from 10 to 15 hours.
- *Louisiana* increased center staff annual training from 4 to 12 hours.
- *New Hampshire* increased center staff annual training from 9 to 18 hours.
- *Texas* increased center staff annual training from 15 to 24 hours.

This is the first year this report reviews whether states require CPR for all staff. Most states require one individual on the premises to have training in CPR; however, in a crisis situation that requirement is insufficient to ensure that children can be assisted in a potentially life threatening incident.

Nine states (*Delaware, Kansas, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming*) plus DoD require CPR training for all new staff. Thirteen states plus DoD require first aid training for all new staff.

Some states have very minimal training requirements.

- Eight states (*California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Pennsylvania and Vermont*) required three or fewer of the 12 specified initial topics important for child safety and child development.
- *Idaho, Montana* and *Nebraska* require three or fewer initial training topics and require teachers to have less than a high school diploma. Low education requirements combined with minimal training requirements potentially place the safety and healthy development of children at risk.

Health and safety requirements

To promote children's health and safety, this report reviews 10 basic health and 10 basic safety requirements recommended by pediatric experts.

- **Overall, only 16 states** (*Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West*

Virginia and Wisconsin) **address each of the 10 basic safety and 10 basic health requirements.**

- Twenty-seven states plus DoD address all 10 of the recommended health areas.
- Twenty-eight states address all 10 of the recommended safety areas.

Early Learning and School Readiness

Despite the link between early learning and school readiness, only 20 states plus DoD require initial training in learning activities.

- Twenty-one states plus DoD require training in child development.
- Thirty-four states plus DoD require training in child guidance or ways to address child behavior.

Inspection requirements

Effective monitoring policies are important for child safety and center accountability for compliance with state licensing requirements.

- Thirty states plus DoD inspect child care centers two or more times a year (which includes inspections from the licensing office as well as fire and health/sanitation departments).
- **Nine states** (*Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Vermont*) **do not require any type of inspection at least once a year.**

Making inspection reports public is an important form of consumer education. Parents cannot make informed selections among child care settings unless they have access to compliance information. Otherwise, they logically assume that a state license is a gold seal of approval.

- Four states (*Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky and Missouri*) now post child care center inspection reports on the Internet, increasing the total number of states posting reports to 31 plus DoD.

Some states made progress in reducing caseloads assigned to state licensing staff, which leads to more frequent and potentially more effective monitoring.

- Five states (*Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, New Jersey* and *Pennsylvania*) made significant progress in reducing the number of child care programs assigned to each licensing staff to monitor.

Compared to our 2011 report, 19 states increased the number of programs covered by licensing office staff.

Given the state of the economy, many states faced tough budget deficit gaps to close over the last few years. With the important role effective monitoring plays in promoting child safety and program compliance with licensing, the number of programs that each licensing staff covers needs to be reduced, not increased.

Connection Between State Licensing and Quality Rating Systems

Most states either currently operate a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) – to assist families in understanding quality differences among programs – or are in the process of developing one.

However, only five states (*Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma* and *Tennessee*) embed licensing as the gateway to their rating system (i.e., require all licensed programs to participate in the state's QRIS). Connecting licensing to state QRIS is important to ensure that child care licensing and state quality ratings do not occur in separate silos. In essence, a license equates to the lowest level of quality allowed by a state.

Two of the five states above (*Oklahoma* and *Tennessee*) are listed in the top 10 states for total scores in this report. This means that licensing as a bottom threshold of state sanctioned quality is relatively high compared to other states.

North Carolina licensed care is ranked 21st. Since our last report, *North Carolina* has made important

progress in strengthening the overall quality of licensed child care. Legislation was enacted in 2011 that restricted the use of subsidies in the state to 3, 4 and 5 star child care programs. There was a year of transition during which much effort was made to assist 1 and 2 star programs to reach the 3 star level (or higher). In October 2011, 25 percent of all programs in the state (1,922 programs) were rated as 1 or 2 stars. As of February 2013, nearly 900 programs had moved up from 1 or 2 stars to 3 or higher.

In effect, by integrating licensing with the state's QRIS and by requiring accountability for the use of subsidies for low income children to higher quality care, the state has significantly improved the quality of child care available for *all* children. As a result, few programs in *North Carolina* remain at the licensed level – the lowest quality of care allowed by the state.

Role of Federal and State Policymakers

Whether a state ranks low in program requirements or low in monitoring of those requirements, the responsibility for state licensing rests with state legislatures. State agencies set program requirements and enforcement policies based on authority granted to them in state statutes.

State licensing varies greatly, in large part because Congress has not set accountable parameters for states as they spend federal and state money on child care. The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the federal law that allocates funds to states for child care and sets the parameters for state child care law:

- Does **not** require a background check for child care providers to screen out those who should not be in the business of caring for children.
- Does **not** contain a minimum training requirement for child care providers.
- Does **not** require regular inspections to ensure that child care programs are in compliance with state licensing requirements.
- Does **not** require minimum protections for children so that they are safe and in quality child care settings.

A U.S. Senate hearing in 2011 compared the Military Child Care Act (MCCA) and CCDBG. Unlike CCDBG where funding flows through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to states to assist children with any type of child care (*licensed or not, poor quality or not, where providers are not screened or trained and inspections are infrequent*), the MCCA requires provider background checks, minimum training, quarterly inspections and children to be in quality settings.

In this year's report, DoD child care centers ranked first. It is time for Congress to set parameters for the states through CCDBG that parallel the MCCA.

It is good news that the children of military families are in quality child care. It would be great news if the rest of the children in America could also be in quality child care. However, as this report shows, more progress needs to be made.

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends Congress:

Reauthorize CCDBG in the 113th Congress and appropriate sufficient funding to ensure that eligible children are able to receive assistance and that states can meet quality improvement goals.

Protect children's safety

- Require comprehensive background checks for licensed child care providers who regularly care for unrelated children and for unlicensed individuals who receive federal funds to care for children.
- Require minimum health and safety protections for children (including safe sleep practices for infants) for receipt of federal subsidies.
- Require states to share with Child Care Resource and Referral agencies in a timely manner information about license revocations and suspensions and other information that will help parents select safe, quality child care for their children.

- Require states to include child care in disaster planning, response and recovery efforts.
- Include a specific set-aside for licensing related activities to promote the safety and healthy development of children.
- Require licensed child care programs to disclose to parents whether they carry liability insurance.

Promote accountability

- Require regular unannounced inspections of licensed programs (the same standard Congress required of the military child care system) and require inspection reports to be posted on the internet to assist parents in making informed child care choices.
- Require a child care community needs assessment as part of the CCDBG state plan, which includes the availability of licensed care by setting, by age, and by hours of operation and compare such data to the needs of working parents in the community for such types of child care.
- Require deaths in child care programs to be reported to the state licensing agency and the state child care administrator and for those agencies to aggregate the data and report it to the Department of Health and Human Services to identify trends and recommend policies to prevent such tragedies where possible.
- Require states accepting federal funds for child care to provide an evidence-based rationale for each category of license-exempt care and to disclose such information on the Internet.
- Include a specific set-aside for licensing-related activities to promote the safety and healthy development of children, including safe sleep practices for infants.
- Require the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to review state Child Care and Development Fund biennial plans and impose penalties when state plans fail to meet minimum protections for children, including ineffective state monitoring practices.

Promote quality child care

- Establish quality child care as a goal for any use of related federal funding (*i.e., funds used for child care through CCDBG, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF] program, and the Social Services Block Grant [SSBG]*).
- Set clear expectations about what quality means and establish a floor for what is minimally acceptable.
- Require all paid individuals in the child care workforce (who care for unrelated children on a regular basis) to complete 40 hours of initial training in child development and behavior guidance, learning activities, first aid/CPR, recognizing and reporting child abuse, and basic health and safety practices as well as 24 hours of annual training.
- Require community-based training that is intentional, sequential, competency-based, tied with coaching and tied to outcomes.
- Encourage states to expand online training opportunities, training to better address children with special needs and training in working with children whose first language is not English.
- Expand training in other languages where a community needs assessment shows the need for training in languages other than English to better meet the needs of a diverse array of providers.
- Require CCDBG quality funds to be linked to measurable program outcomes, especially training and preparation of the workforce.
- Require states to encourage healthy development in child care by promoting nutritious meals and snacks, offering daily physical activity, and limiting screen time.
- Require states to create or strengthen Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) to tier provider payment rates based on objective quality measures and to ensure that low-income children have access to high quality care.

- Authorize funds for pilots in high poverty rural communities to explore strategies that braid multiple funding sources to better meet the child care needs of working parents (meeting the criteria of the strongest funding stream to ensure safe, quality care for children).
- Increase the CCDBG quality set-aside immediately to 12 percent of the basic block grant, moving it to 25 percent, on par with Head Start.

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends States:

Strengthen state program requirements and oversight.

Protect children's safety

- Require comprehensive background checks for child care providers and those receiving subsidies to care for unrelated children.
- Require all child care center teachers to keep current certification in first aid and CPR.
- Require child care centers to follow the 10 basic health practices and the 10 basic safety practices recommended by pediatric experts.
- Require all child care centers to be licensed.
- Inspect child care programs regularly and post inspection reports on the Internet.
- Share suspension and violation information with CCR&Rs so that agencies do not make referrals to programs that may not be safe.
- Require deaths in child care programs to be reported to the state licensing agency.

Promote accountability

- Conduct regular inspections to ensure compliance with state requirements. At least some of these inspections should be unannounced.
- Post routine inspection reports and substantiated complaints on the Internet.

- Ensure adequate oversight by reducing licensing staff caseloads to a ratio of no more than 50:1 to improve accountability for meeting state requirements.

Promote quality child care

- Require child care center directors to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.
- Require lead teachers to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.
- Require child care centers to provide an orientation and initial training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
- Require child care center staff to have 24 hours or more of annual training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.

- Require community-based training that is intentional, sequential, competency-based, tied with coaching and tied to outcomes.
- Create and expand more online training opportunities, training to better address children with special needs, training to work with children whose first language is not English and training in languages where a community needs assessment shows the need for languages other than English to better meet the needs of a diverse array of providers.
- Require child care centers to plan learning activities that address language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive development/ math, self-help skills, creative activities, limited screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
- Require child care centers to encourage family involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and share written policies with parents.
- Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.



Introduction

This report marks the seventh year that Child Care Aware® of America (formerly NACCRRRA, the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies) has undertaken a review of state child care standards and oversight.

We Can Do Better: Child Care Aware® of America's Ranking of State Child Care Center Regulations and Oversight: 2013 Update reviews state child care center program requirements and oversight. It is an update of three previous reports released in 2007, 2009 and 2011. The intent of this report (and the *We Can Do Better* series) is to examine what individual states are doing to promote safety and healthy child development in licensed child care centers.

We Can Do Better is a companion to *Leaving Children to Chance*, a series of reports released in 2008, 2010 and 2012 that scored and ranked states based on their requirements and oversight for small family child care homes.

State Child Care Center Licensing

In general, a license is a legal document that means a state has granted permission to operate a business as long as some minimum criteria are met. Parents, as consumers of child care, equate a license with state approval of those businesses to which a state grants a license.

State licensing policies, which include both program and monitoring requirements, are reviewed in this report to better understand the settings that states have approved for the care of our nation's children.

The underlying purpose of child care licensing is to protect parents and their children and to support employers and the community.

Licensing requirements should define minimum acceptable health, safety and program standards as well as effective enforcement to ensure that programs are accountable for the license they have received.

At a minimum, licensed care should do no harm.

In order for states to have an effective child care approach, there needs to be a focus on both program standards and oversight policies. Weak program requirements may endanger children. Ineffective monitoring undercuts even the strongest of standards. Child Care Aware® of America reviews both to give a clear picture of the state's overall approach to child care.

Every state, the *District of Columbia* and the *Department of Defense (DoD)* were scored on licensing requirements and oversight policies. *DoD* was included in the scoring because it has its own set of licensing standards and oversight. To increase visibility about the status of quality in child care centers, Child Care Aware® of America used the scores to rank the states, the *District of Columbia* and *DoD*. For information about the methodology, see Appendix C.

Child Care is a Way of Life for Millions of American Families

Each week, nearly 11 million children under age 5 are in some type of child care setting for an average of 35 hours. Many of these children are in child care centers.¹ The quality of the setting affects the safety of the children as well as their healthy development, leading ultimately to school readiness.

According to parent focus groups conducted by Child Care Aware® of America, the number one concern among parents about child care is the quality of the setting in which children receive care.² Most parents logically assume that child care providers have had a background check and training.³ As this report shows, the reality is that standards vary greatly by state, and a license by itself can mean very little.

There are currently no federal standards for child care. Child care licensing requirements are set by individual states.

State Laws and Policies Vary Greatly

Most states have requirements for basic health and safety for child care centers. Beyond that, however, parents have little assurance that their children are safe and in environments that promote their health and development. As this report shows, only 16 states meet each of 10 health and 10 safety practices recommended by pediatric experts.

In many states, inspections are infrequent, so parents cannot have confidence that programs follow health, safety and child development-related requirements. In fact, in nine states (*Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Vermont*), inspections are conducted less often than once a year.

State requirements for background checks vary widely. Only 13 states require a complete background check (a fingerprint check against state and federal records as well as a check of the child abuse registry and sex offender registry) for staff working in a child care center.

Eleven states have made progress in requiring various elements of a background check since our 2011 report (*Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming*).

The quality of the child care workforce is directly related to the quality of child care programs. As this report shows, most states have minimal education and training requirements for lead teachers in child care center classrooms.

The complexity of some state regulations has led to confusion among both child care providers and parents. This became even more apparent to Child Care Aware® of America this year as some state scores changed solely due to further clarification by state licensing staff about their regulations. What is clear is that state regulations need to be written as simply as possible so that they can be easily understood by parents and child care providers. Even the strongest requirements mean little if people cannot understand what is required.

Limited Accountability for Federal Funding

About \$10 billion in government funds is used annually by the states for child care. For the most part, funding for child care comes from the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG or Title XX), and state funds.

Since the nature of these funds is a block grant, states have wide discretion about how to spend this money.

CCDBG, the federal program that allocates funds to states and sets the framework for state child care laws, contains very few rules related to program requirements or oversight. To receive funds from CCDBG, states must have in place policies designed to protect the health and safety of children in the following areas:

- The prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations).
- Building and physical premise safety.

- Minimum health and safety training appropriate to the provider setting.⁴

States must submit a biennial plan to the Office of Child Care within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of the process of applying for CCDBG funds. Under the law, states are required to provide a detailed description of their licensing standards including how such standards are *effectively enforced*. In particular, states are required to certify that procedures are in place to ensure that child care providers are in compliance.

CCDBG does not require a minimum licensing standard, only that whatever licensing standard designed by the states is described. The law also does not define *effective enforcement*, which has led to varying state interpretations. For example, *California* inspects child care centers once every five years. *Vermont* does not require inspections.

While states have made many improvements since 2007 when Child Care Aware® of America released its first report reviewing state requirements and oversight with regard to child care centers, more is needed to align with the intent of the law.

According to the latest data available from the Office of Child Care, about 66 percent of children whose care is paid for through CCDBG are in child care centers.⁵ This means that more than 1.1 million children are in care paid for with taxpayer dollars, which may or may not protect their safety and may or may not promote their healthy development.

Highlights of Progress Made Since Child Care Aware® of America's 2011 Report

Background Checks: Eleven states improved their background check requirements (*Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington* and *Wyoming*).

- Thirty-one states plus *DoD* now require a fingerprint check against FBI records for child care center staff compared to 27 states plus *DoD* in 2011.

- Twenty-three states now require a check of the sex offender registry compared to 17 in 2011.

Annual Training: Four states had significant increases in annual training hours required for child care center staff.

- *Arkansas* increased center staff annual training from 10 to 15 hours.
- *Louisiana* increased center staff annual training from 4 to 12 hours.
- *New Hampshire* increased center staff annual training from 9 to 18 hours.
- *Texas* increased center staff annual training from 15 to 24 hours.

Inspection Reports Posted Online: Four states (*Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky* and *Missouri*) now post child care center inspection reports on the Internet increasing the total number of states posting reports to 31 plus *DoD*.

- Five states (*Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, New Jersey* and *Pennsylvania*) made significant progress in reducing the number of child care programs assigned to each licensing staff to monitor (thereby increasing the likelihood that inspections can be both more frequent and more effective).

Program AND Oversight Importance

Two states (*New York* and *Washington*) plus *DoD* scored high on both program requirements and oversight.

In some states, there is a large discrepancy between program requirements and oversight. Without effective oversight, state compliance is unknown.

Three states (*Massachusetts, New Jersey* and *Rhode Island*) that are on the top 10 list for best program requirements are among the 10 lowest scoring states with regard to oversight.

Other states scored well in oversight practices, but they are monitoring weak regulations. Two states (*Arkansas* and *South Carolina*) are on the top 10 list for oversight and among the top 10 lowest scoring states for program requirements.

Some states scored low on both program requirements and oversight.

Three states (*California*, *Idaho* and *Nebraska*) are on both lists of the worst 10 states with regard to program requirements and oversight.

Connection Between State Licensing and Quality Rating Systems

Most states either currently operate a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) – to assist families in understanding quality differences among programs – or are in the process of developing one. However, only five states (*Michigan*, *New Mexico*, *North Carolina*, *Oklahoma* and *Tennessee*) embed licensing as the gateway to their rating system (i.e., require all licensed programs to participate in the state’s QRIS). Connecting licensing to state QRIS is important to ensure that child care licensing and state quality ratings do not occur in separate silos. In essence, a license equates to the lowest level of quality allowed by a state.

Two of the five states (*Oklahoma* and *Tennessee*) are listed in the top 10 states for total scores in this report. This means that licensing as a bottom threshold of state sanctioned care is relatively high compared to other states.

North Carolina licensed care is ranked 21st. Since our last report, *North Carolina* has made important progress in strengthening the overall quality of licensed child care. Legislation was enacted in 2011 that restricted the use of subsidies in the state to 3, 4 and 5 star child care programs. There was a year of transition during which much effort was made to assist 1 and 2 star programs to reach the 3 star level (or higher). In October 2011, 25 percent of all programs in the state (1,922 programs) were rated as 1 or 2 stars. As of February 2013, nearly 900 programs had moved up from 1 or 2 stars to 3 or higher.

By integrating licensing with the state’s QRIS and by requiring accountability for the use of subsidies for low-income children to higher quality care, the state has significantly improved the quality of child care available for *all* children. As a result, few programs in *North Carolina* remain at the licensed level – the lowest quality of care allowed by the state.

Role of State Legislatures

Whether a state ranks low in program requirements or low in monitoring of those requirements, the responsibility for state licensing rests with state legislatures. State agencies set program requirements and enforcement policies based on authority granted to them in state statute. Resources allocated to implement program requirements and manage monitoring are subject to state legislative approval.

Role of Congress

Because CCDBG contains very few accountability requirements, there are no protections for children in the parameters set under federal law. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services does not have authority to go beyond the law to protect children (just as state agencies may not go beyond the authority granted to them by state legislatures).

Both Congress and state legislatures need to ensure that child care is a work support for parents that does not endanger their children’s safety and promotes their healthy development.

The Focus of This Report

Child Care Aware® of America scored the states on key components of their licensing standards and oversight systems, including health and safety policies and other critical features of a quality child care setting.

While this report is an update to Child Care Aware® of America’s 2011 *We Can Do Better* report, the scores cannot be directly compared.

For 2013, the scoring methodology for child care centers was adjusted to be more consistent with the scoring approach for the *Leaving Children to Chance*

report, Child Care Aware® of America's biennial ranking of small family child care homes. This adjustment was made to review similar categories of requirements related to initial and annual training, learning activities, and health and safety. These changes affected final scores even for some states that did not have any substantive change in regulations, but brings consistency to the review of state policies with regard to centers and family child care homes.

- The following adjustments were made to child care center scoring:
 1. Additional topics were scored for initial training.
 2. Additional items were scored for developmental domains.
 3. The health and safety benchmark was split into two benchmarks and additional items were scored.
 4. An additional item was scored for parent involvement.

The benchmarks used for scoring were developed based on the available research in the field, including a review of the *13 Indicators of Quality Child Care: Research Update* by Dr. Richard Fiene for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.⁶ In addition, *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care Programs, 3rd Edition*, provides information to help states develop effective child care standards.⁷

State Scoring

The following benchmarks were used to score the states:

- **Program Benchmark 1:** A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.
- **Program Benchmark 2:** Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.

- **Program Benchmark 3:** Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.
- **Program Benchmark 4:** Child care center staff are required to have an orientation and initial training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
- **Program Benchmark 5:** Child care center staff are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
- **Program Benchmark 6:** Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive development, self-help skills, creative activities, limited screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
- **Program Benchmark 7:** Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas: hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
- **Program Benchmark 8:** Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas: SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation supervision and firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Corporal punishment is prohibited.

- **Program Benchmark 9:** Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and share written policies with parents.
- **Program Benchmark 10:** Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.
- **Program Benchmark 11:** Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.
- **Oversight Benchmark 1:** Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.
- **Oversight Benchmark 2:** Inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.
- **Oversight Benchmark 3:** Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.
- **Oversight Benchmark 4:** Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.

The following section describes each of the benchmarks in more detail. It includes information about:

- Why the benchmark is important.
- What policies states have in place related to the benchmark.
- Child Care Aware® of America's recommendations to strengthen state requirements in each area

Program and Oversight Benchmarks

Program Benchmark 1: Type of Background Check

A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry

One of the easiest ways to ensure that children are safe while in child care is for states to conduct background checks on individuals who want to work in a child care center, become licensed to provide child care out of their home, or receive a subsidy to care for low-income children. Given the transitory nature of the child care field, it is important that a full background check is conducted for all those who will have unsupervised contact with children.

It is logical for parents to expect that child care providers and those who come into contact with their children while in child care are screened to ensure that they do not present the potential for harm. Child Care Aware® of America's national polling shows that 85 percent of parents thought all child care providers had to have a background check, and 92 percent of parents supported requiring child care providers to have a background check, including fingerprints.⁸

The reality is that parents cannot conduct effective background checks on child care providers on their own. Even the most motivated, well-financed parent search would still be limited to commercial databases, which the U.S. Department of Justice has said are incomplete.⁹

Parents need to know that individuals hired to work in child care centers as well as those who regularly volunteer in centers:

- Do **not** have a record of violent offenses.

- Do **not** have a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect.
- Are **not** sex offenders.
- Have **not** engaged in other behaviors which indicate that they should not be in the business of caring for children.

A full background check is key to providing this protection. It includes:

- Checking Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) criminal records, which is based on fingerprints.
- Using fingerprints to check state criminal history records.
- Checking the child abuse registry.
- Checking the sex offender registry.

Under current law, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which allocates funds to states and sets the framework for state child care laws, contains no background check requirement. In 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care sent an Information Memorandum to the states, which is the strongest encouragement possible short of a change in the law. The Information Memorandum recommended State Child Care Agencies require comprehensive criminal background checks for child care providers serving children receiving subsidies through CCDBG as well as all licensed child care providers.¹⁰

Use of Fingerprints

Background checks are of limited value unless they are based on fingerprints. Individuals can have very common names or use aliases. Using only a name check can allow an individual to circumvent a criminal records check and be approved to provide child care where a fingerprint check would have revealed a criminal record.

The Criminal Justice Information Services Division of the FBI centralizes criminal justice information and is based on the use of fingerprints.

The Crime Control Act of 1990¹¹ requires a background check for federal government employees who work in federal child care programs. The law requires that the checks be based on fingerprints and that the checks are conducted through the FBI and each state's criminal history records for which an employee lists current or former residence.

A study of the Federal Child Safety Pilot Program¹² found that requiring fingerprints is both reasonably priced and worth the effort:

- Fingerprint checks can be completed in less than a week and can be completed at a modest fee (\$18 - \$24).
- Of the more than 30,000 background checks conducted, about 6.4 percent of volunteers (who sought to work with children) were found to have criminal records.
- More than 25 percent of the individuals with criminal records had committed an offense in a state other than the state in which they were applying to volunteer.

Recent data improvement projects have made it easier and faster to obtain fingerprint checks. *Florida* made a change in 2010 to require live scanning of fingerprints instead of relying on the use of fingerprint ink cards. The background check process, which previously had taken as long as four to six weeks, now is completed in as little as 24 to 48 hours. Digital prints greatly improved the quality and accuracy of the print and eliminated the provisional time when prospective employees could not be hired until a fingerprint-based screening was completed. *Florida* found it could

implement the change without substantial cost to individuals or the state.¹³

In addition to a check against FBI records, a check of state databases is necessary to obtain more comprehensive data. Not all criminal history records involve offenses that states submit to the FBI. In other cases, fingerprints were not of sufficient quality to be entered into the system.¹⁴

Check of Child Abuse registry

A check of the state child abuse and neglect registry helps protect children from child abuse and neglect by child care providers with a history of substantiated abuse – violations that may not appear in a state or federal criminal database.¹⁵ The data can be used by state licensing agencies and child care employers to screen persons who will be entrusted with the care of children.

According to the HHS 2011 Child Maltreatment report, 2,474 child care providers (including child care center staff, family child care home providers and babysitters) abused young children.¹⁶

Check of Sex Offender Registry

A 2011 Government Accountability Office report about sex offenders in child care found cases of past offenders working in child care in various positions such as maintenance worker, cafeteria worker or a cook. Some offenders used their access to take advantage of children again.¹⁷

Given the very serious nature of sex-related crimes, parents and the public need assurance that no sex offenders are caring for children in child care settings. A check of the sex offender registry should be required for everyone who comes into regular contact with children in child care.

State Policies

All states but one (*Nebraska*) require a criminal records check. However, children's safety is put at risk when a criminal history check relies on a background check that is based on a name or a number. Since our last report in 2011:

- Thirteen states improved their background check requirements (*Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado,*

Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming).

- Five states (*Colorado, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Washington*) now have a requirement for a check against FBI records. In *Massachusetts*, the change will be implemented in September 2013. In *Oklahoma*, FBI checks will be required in November 2013.
- In February 2013, *Utah* passed a law, effective July 1, 2013, that eliminates the five-year residency exemption for fingerprint checks.
- In March 2013, legislation was enacted in *Georgia* to require a fingerprint check against federal records, which becomes effective in January 2014.
- *Washington* now requires a check of state records using fingerprints. A similar requirement will become effective in *Oklahoma* in November 2013.
- *North Carolina* now requires a check of the child abuse registry.

Comprehensive background checks

- Overall, 13 states (*Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee and Washington*) require a comprehensive check for staff working in a child care center: a fingerprint check against state and FBI records, a check of the child abuse registry and a check of the sex offender registry.
- Nine of these states (*Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Washington*) require a comprehensive check of both family child care homes and child care centers.

Fingerprint checks

- Thirty-one states plus *DoD* require a fingerprint check against FBI records for child care center staff.
- Twenty-nine states plus *DoD* require a fingerprint check against state records for child care center employment.

- In *Montana*, a fingerprint check against FBI records and a fingerprint check of state criminal records is required for candidates who have lived in *Montana* for less than five years.
- In *Oregon*, a fingerprint check against FBI records is required for candidates who have lived in *Oregon* for less than 18 months. There is no state fingerprint requirement.

Child abuse registry

- Forty-six states plus *DoD* require a check of the child abuse registry.
- *Arizona* will begin to require background checks using the child abuse registry as of August 2013.
- *Florida* completes a child abuse registry check for all owners, operator and directors, but not for employees.
- In *Oklahoma*, Joshua's List is a Child Care Restricted Registry that records people who have a confirmed finding of child abuse while working in a child care program. While *Oklahoma* checks this list prior to allowing individuals to work in a child care center, the registry is a list of only those with a substantiated child abuse finding who are child care providers and is not a check of the full child abuse registry.

Sex offender registry

- Only 23 states check the sex offender registry.
- In *California* and *Maryland*, a check of the sex offender registry is conducted, but it is not required in regulations or in policy. Child Care Aware® of America recommends such policy be required by regulation or statute.
- In *Florida* and *Michigan*, a check of the sex offender registry is conducted on the address, not on the individual.
- Although the *Massachusetts* Department of Early Education and Care does not conduct a check of the *Massachusetts* Sex Offender database, the *Massachusetts* Sex Offender Registry law requires the local police departments to notify all schools and child care centers about level

2 and level 3 sex offenders in the town in which the sex offender resides and works.

The following table shows the number of states that require the different elements of a comprehensive background check.

Number of States Requiring Specific Element of Background Checks	
Requirement	Number of States
Federal fingerprints	32*
State fingerprints	30*
Criminal record check	51*
Child abuse registries	47*
Sex offender registries	23
<p>Notes: Arizona will begin to conduct background checks of the child abuse registry as of August 2013.</p> <p>In California, a check of the sex offender registry is conducted, but it is not required in regulations or in policy. We recommend it be required by regulation or policy.</p> <p>Florida completes a child abuse registry check for all owners, operators and directors, but not of employees. A check of the sex offender registry is conducted by address.</p> <p>In Indiana, a fingerprint check against FBI records is required for the child care program applicant only. Employees are not required to have a FBI check.</p> <p>In Maryland, staff are required to undergo a background check that includes using fingerprints for state and federal records and a check of the child abuse and neglect registry. A check of the sex offender registry is not required in regulation.</p> <p>In Massachusetts, legislation passed in January 2013, requiring a fingerprint check against FBI records on all child care center staff. This will become effective on September 1, 2013. Although the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care does not require a check of the Massachusetts Sex Offender data base, the Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry law requires the local police departments to notify all schools and child care centers about level 2 and level 3 sex offenders in the town in which the sex offender resides and works.</p> <p>In Michigan, the sex offender check is completed on the address of the program, not the individual.</p> <p>In Montana, a fingerprint check against state and FBI criminal records is required for candidates who have lived in Montana for less than five years.</p> <p>Oklahoma passed legislation in 2011 requiring a fingerprint check of FBI and state records. This law goes into effect in November 2013. The state requires a check against "Joshua's List," a Child Care Restricted Registry that records people who have a confirmed finding of child abuse while working in a child care program (but it is not a check against all individuals with a substantiated finding of child abuse on the state child abuse registry).</p> <p>In Oregon, a fingerprint check against FBI records is required for candidates who have lived in the state for less than 18 months. There is no state fingerprint requirement.</p> <p>In February 2013, Utah passed a law, effective July 1, 2013, that eliminates the five-year residency exemption for fingerprint checks.</p> <p>In March 2013, Georgia passed legislation to require a fingerprint check against federal records. The new law becomes effective January 1, 2014.</p>	
*Includes DoD	

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends Congress:

- Reauthorize CCDBG to require a comprehensive background check for child care providers and those receiving federal subsidies to care for unrelated children. Substitutes, aides and all who may have unsupervised access to children should be included in any background check requirements.
- Prohibit the use of federal funds to pay convicted felons to provide child care.

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends States:

- Require a comprehensive background check, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.

Program Benchmark 2: Minimum Education for Directors

Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.

Child care center directors provide the vision for child care programs. In addition, they are responsible for personnel management and professional development, fiscal management, facilities management, oversight of the program's curriculum, working with parents and many other aspects of a child care program's operations. They provide leadership to staff who often have little experience, training or education.

Education and training in business management, early childhood development and education, and adult learning prepares directors to oversee their programs and provide staff with the training and supervision they need.

State Policies

Children in many states are cared for in child care centers where the directors are subject to only minimal education and training requirements related to child care.

- Ten states (*Arkansas, Connecticut, Idaho, Kentucky, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina and West Virginia*) do not require child care center directors to have **any** college credit or courses in order to assume their responsibilities.
- Seven states (*Alabama, Arizona, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Tennessee and Wyoming*) require directors to have clock hours, credits or a credential in early childhood education that are less than a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.
- An additional 12 states (*Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont and Virginia*) require directors to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.
- Twenty-one states require directors to have clock hours, credits or credential in early childhood education that are more than a CDA credential or to have an associate degree in early childhood education.
- In *Hawaii*, directors in infant/toddler centers must have additional education. They are required to have two years of college with 30 hours in early childhood education.
- In *Rhode Island*, the Head Teacher is the Education Coordinator and has a higher education requirement than the Director. The minimum education for a Head Teacher is a Rhode Island certificate in Early Childhood Education.
- *New Jersey* requires a bachelor's degree, but it can be in an unrelated field.
- Only *DoD* requires center directors to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.



The following table has information about the level of education that is required for directors of child care centers in individual states.

Number of States Requiring a Specific Level of Education for Directors	
Level of Education Required	Number of States
Less than high school diploma or GED	4
High school diploma or GED	6
Clock hours in early childhood education (ECE), credits or a credential less than a CDA	7
CDA	12
Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than a CDA	18
Associates degree in ECE or related field	3
Bachelor's degree in unrelated field	1
Bachelor's degree in ECE or related field	1*
Total	52*

*Includes DoD

Notes: In *Missouri*, minimum education was coded for directors for centers with 21-60 children. Additional education is required for directors in centers with 61-99 children and for directors in centers with 100 or more children.

In *Vermont*, minimum education was coded for directors of centers with 13-59 children. Directors in centers with more than 60 children are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.

In *West Virginia*, minimum education was coded for directors for centers that serve 31-60 children. Directors in centers that serve more than 60 children are required to have a minimum of an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.

In *Wisconsin*, this report codes minimum education for directors for centers licensed for 51 or more children.

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends States:

- Require child care center directors to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.
- Expand minimum training requirements for child care center directors that address core management and leadership competencies and result in a national credential for those who administer early care and education programs. The credential should be competency-based and linked to a formal credit-bearing program, preferably a graduate level management degree.

Program Benchmark 3: Minimum Education for Lead Teachers

Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.

Child care providers who have specialized education in early childhood education are more likely to respond positively to children and to use successful teaching practices than teachers without specialized training or education.¹⁸

Research has found that provider education is related to the quality of care. However, child care center staff generally have little training or education to prepare them for their responsibilities with young children. Studies show that almost half of the individuals in the child care workforce in regulated child care settings enter the profession with no more than a high school education – 20 percent of child care center teachers, 43 percent of center assistants and 44 percent of family child care providers have a high school education or less.¹⁹

Minimal educational requirements and the correspondingly low compensation of child care providers contribute to annual staff turnover rates, which range from 25 to 40 percent a year throughout the country.²⁰ This low level of compensation discourages more highly educated and trained professionals from entering or staying in the child care field.

The ease of entry into the child care workforce by people with minimal skills and knowledge needed for child care affects the quality of care provided. A study by the National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development found that more than 90 percent of the child care in the United States is considered to be of poor or fair quality.²¹

Child Care Aware® of America's position is that child care providers should have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or an associate degree. A CDA or an associate degree helps individuals better understand child development, health and safety issues and working with parents. In addition, providers should have an individualized professional development plan that

includes progress in higher education and training to address identified needs.

State Policies

Unlike the state requirements for teachers in public schools, states have minimal requirements for staff working in child care centers. Most licensing regulations for lead teachers range from less than a high school diploma to a high school diploma.

- Seventeen states (*Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming*) do not require a high school diploma or GED for child care center lead teachers.
- Fourteen states (*Alabama, Arizona, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and West Virginia*) require only a high school diploma or GED.
- Ten states (*California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Michigan, New York, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin*) require clock hours, credits or a credential that is less than a CDA credential.
- Six states (*Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Minnesota and New Jersey*) plus *DoD* require lead teachers to have a CDA credential.
- *Massachusetts* and *New Hampshire* require clock hours, credits or a credential that is more than a CDA.
- *Pennsylvania* requires an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.
- Only *Rhode Island* requires teachers to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

- *Florida* does not have a “Lead Teacher” designation. For every 20 children, one staff person in the center must have the equivalent of a CDA credential.
- *Missouri* does not have a lead teacher designation. Minimum education for lead teachers is based on general staff requirements.

**Child Care Aware® of America
Recommends States:**

- Require lead teachers to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.

The following table shows the number of states with different education requirements.

Number of States Requiring a Specific Level of Education for Child Care Lead Teachers	
Level of Education Required	Number of States
Less than high school diploma or GED	17
High school diploma or GED	14
Clock hours in early childhood education (ECE), credits or credential less than CDA	10
CDA credential	7*
Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	2
Associate degree in ECE or related field	1
Bachelor's degree in ECE or related field	1
Total	52*
*Includes DoD	

Program Benchmark 4: Minimum Initial Training

Child care center staff are required to have an orientation and initial training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.

Although education and training are often intertwined, one of the reasons that Child Care Aware® of America recommends minimum initial and annual training requirements is the overall low level of education among individuals in the child care workforce. Relatively low levels of education for child care providers make initial training important for both protecting children's health and safety and for supporting their early development.

Training can mean the difference between life and death, can reduce the likelihood of child injuries, and can promote a stimulating environment linked to children's school readiness. Better trained child care staff lead to higher quality care and more positive outcomes for children. Children in the care of inadequately prepared providers spend more of their day in aimless activity and show delays in language and social development.²²

Orientation to program policies and procedures and initial competency-based training helps ensure individuals who do not have a strong formal education have a foundation of professional knowledge and skills to work with children. At a minimum, states should require an orientation and training in the following key areas:

- Child development.
- Child guidance.
- Child abuse identification and reporting.
- Emergency preparation.
- Licensing regulations.
- Learning activities.
- Health and safety.
- Safe sleep practices.

- Shaken baby prevention.
- CPR.
- First aid.

More than a checklist, training is intended to strengthen skills and improve competency to promote quality care.

Child Care Aware® of America recommends 40 hours as the minimum number of hours child care providers need for initial training either before or shortly after beginning caring for children.

The number of hours matter because the topics related to caring for children quickly fill up the hours. For example, the Red Cross recommends six hours of training for individuals to be certified for CPR.

As mandatory reporters under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), child care providers have an important role in identifying potential cases of child abuse. They need to know the applicable state law and know how to carry it out under difficult circumstances. In 2011, more than 14,600 child care providers reported suspicions about potential child abuse.²³ Training about recognizing and reporting child abuse can average eight hours.

CPR and child abuse topics could consume 14 hours of training, which exceeds the number of training hours required by many states.

In the context of other professions working with the public, 40 hours is a modest requirement. States require hundreds of training hours for manicurists or barbers who have important jobs but are not caring for children's lives.

Federal Funding

More than \$10 billion in federal funds through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program is spent on child care every year to enable low-income families to work.

CCDBG currently does not contain a minimum training requirement for child care providers. This places children at risk of possible injury and death in child care programs that receive funds from the federal government.

State Policies

Child Care Aware® of America's national polling has found that parents overwhelmingly assume licensed child care providers have had training.²⁴ The reality is that state requirements vary greatly and most state training requirements are minimal. States sometimes specify training topics, but many do not mention the number of hours needed to complete this training. There is no assurance that topics are covered in a comprehensive or systemic way or whether an array of required topics becomes a checklist only – with little likelihood of strengthening the knowledge and behavior of child care providers.

- Forty-three states plus *DoD* require new staff to have an orientation to their job responsibilities; however, many of these states do not specify any number of hours for this orientation, so the actual training could be minimal (e.g., it could be a 45 minute overview or it could be a comprehensive introduction/orientation).
- Thirty-eight states plus *DoD* require familiarity with relevant licensing regulations.
- Thirty-eight states and *DoD* require child abuse recognition and reporting.
- Forty-four states plus *DoD* require some type of training related to emergency preparation policies.

Topics for initial training

We scored whether states specifically required an orientation and whether they required training in 11 areas related to child safety and healthy development.

- Six states require an orientation and training in 10 or 11 topics related to initial training important to promoting child safety and healthy development.
- *Kansas* requires an orientation and training in all 11 topics.
- **Four other states (*Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Wisconsin*) and *DoD* require an orientation and training in 10 of 11 topic areas.**

Preventing Child Tragedies in Child Care

Parents expect their children to be safe in child care. Every parent's nightmare is an accident that happens when a parent is not there to protect a child. That is why it is particularly important for individuals in the child care workforce to have training about safe sleep practices for infants, the dangers of shaking a baby and CPR certification for everyone. All states should require training in these topics, however, our review shows:

- Thirty-four states plus *DoD* require training about the prevention of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (e.g., safe sleep positions for infants).
- Only 13 states require initial training in shaken baby prevention.
- **Nine states (*Delaware, Kansas, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming*) plus *DoD* require CPR training for all new staff.**

This is the first year this report reviews whether states require CPR for all staff. Most states require one individual on the premises to have training in CPR; however, in a crisis situation, that requirement is insufficient to ensure that children can be assisted in a potentially life threatening incident.

- Forty-five states plus DoD require training on health and safety practices such as hand washing, diapering, toileting, universal health precautions, universal precautions and administration of medications.

Training related to preventing accidents or assisting during a time of crisis are just as important yet are not addressed by many state policies.

Early Learning and School Readiness

Despite the link between early learning and school readiness, only 20 states plus DoD require initial training in learning activities.

- Twenty-one states plus DoD require training in child development.
- Thirty-four states plus DoD require training in child guidance or ways to address child behavior.

States with Minimal Policies

Some states have very minimal training requirements.

- Eight states (*California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Pennsylvania* and *Vermont*) required three or fewer of the 11 specified topics.
- *Connecticut, Hawaii* and *Pennsylvania* require minimal initial training, but *Connecticut* and *Hawaii* require teachers to have a CDA credential, and *Pennsylvania* requires an associate degree.
- *Idaho, Montana* and *Nebraska* require three or fewer initial training topics and require teachers to have less than a high school diploma.

The following table shows the number of states that require initial training on specific topics.

Number of States that Require Initial Training on Specific Topics	
Topics Required in Initial Training	Number of States
Orientation required	44*
Child development	22*
Child guidance	35*
Child abuse prevention	39*
Emergency preparedness	45*
Licensing regulations	39*
Learning activities	21*
Health and safety	46*
Safe sleep (SIDS prevention)	35*
Shaken baby prevention	13
CPR for all staff	10*
First aid for all staff	14*
*Includes DoD	

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends States:

- Require individuals in the child care workforce to have a minimum of 40 hours of initial training, including an orientation and training about child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
- Require community-based training that is intentional, sequential, competency-based, tied with coaching and tied to outcomes.

Program Benchmark 5: Minimum Annual Training

Child care center staff are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.

Annual training builds on initial training and experience on the job and strengthens an individual's ability to work with children. Annual training helps child care staff to:

- Improve their skills.
- Deepen their understanding about how children learn.
- Stay up-to-date on changes in health and safety practices.

Research shows the training of individuals in the child care workforce makes a difference in the care they provide and has the following advantages.²⁵

- Better trained providers offer better quality care, which leads to more positive outcomes for children.
- The skill level of child care staff helps determine whether children in care are safe and have the early learning experiences they need to succeed in school.
- Children in the care of inadequately prepared providers spend more of their day in aimless activity and show delays in language and social development.

Provider training has also been linked to reducing stress and increasing retention in the early childhood field.²⁶ This is particularly important in a field with an annual turnover rate that ranges from 25 to 40 percent throughout the country.²⁷

Training areas at a minimum should include:

- Child development.
- Child guidance/behavior.
- Child abuse prevention.
- Emergency preparation.
- Licensing regulations.
- Learning activities.
- Health and safety.
- Safe sleep.
- Shaken baby prevention.
- CPR.
- First aid.

In addition, training should be available to help child care providers better address the specific needs of children with special needs and children who speak languages other than English and have limited English proficiency.

Child Care Aware® of America recommends 24 hours as the minimum number of hours a child care provider needs in annual training to cover basic topics.

Training is offered by multiple agencies and institutions. Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&R) are primary deliverers of training and technical assistance to child care in local communities, as are other professional organizations.

In recognition of the importance of ongoing training for the child care workforce, Child Care Aware® of America has launched an online training academy that offers both initial and ongoing training for individuals on a variety of early childhood topics.

Federal Funding

More than \$10 billion in federal funds, through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, is spent on child care every year to enable low-income families to work.

CCDBG does not contain a minimum training requirement for child care providers. This places children at risk of possible injury and death in child care programs that receive funds from the federal government.

State Policies

Child Care Aware® of America's polling of parents and grandparents has repeatedly found that parents logically assume licensed care means that providers are subject to training requirements.²⁸ The reality is that state training requirements vary greatly.

Hours of annual training

- *California* and *Hawaii* do not require ANY annual training.
- Ten states require fewer than 11 hours of annual training.
- Seventeen states plus *DoD* require 18 hour or more of annual training.
- Five states plus *DoD* require 24 hours or more of annual training. *New Mexico*, *Texas* and *DoD* require 24 hours. *Wisconsin* requires 25 hours. *Maine* requires 30 hours, and *Minnesota* requires 40 hours of annual training.
- About half the states (24) require between 12 and 17 hours of annual training.

The following table shows the number of states that require a range of annual training hours.

Number of States that Require Specific Hours of Annual Training	
Hours of Annual Training Required	Number of States
5 or fewer hours	3
6 to 11 hours	7
12 to 17 hours	24
18 to 23 hours	12
24 hours or more	6*
Total	52*
*Includes <i>DoD</i>	

Topics for annual training

- Forty states plus *DoD* require annual training in health and safety, and 38 states plus *DoD* mention child development as a topic for annual training.
- Child care providers are mandatory reporters under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA); however, only 24 states plus *DoD* require child abuse prevention as a topic for annual training.
- Only 18 states plus *DoD* list safe sleep (SIDS prevention) as a topic for annual training.
- CPR is critical in times of emergency. There can be little time to rush around a center looking for someone who knows CPR, yet only 10 states (*Delaware*, *Iowa*, *Kansas*, *Minnesota*, *Nevada*, *South Dakota*, *Vermont*, *West Virginia*, *Wisconsin* and *Wyoming*) plus *DoD* require all staff to have current certification in CPR. The remaining states require that one or more staff with CPR training be available when children are present.
- Six states (*California*, *Maine*, *Nebraska*, *Nevada*, *North Dakota* and *Washington*) have **no** required topics other than current certification CPR and first aid. *Vermont* only requires current certification in CPR.

The following table shows the number of states that require annual training on specific topics.

Number of States that Require Annual Training on Specific Topics		Number of States
Topics Required in Annual Training		Number of States
Child development		39*
Child guidance		37*
Child abuse prevention		25*
Emergency preparedness		26*
Licensing regulations		17*
Learning activities		32*
Health and safety		41*
Safe sleep (SIDS prevention)		19*
Shaken baby prevention		14*
CPR	For some staff	41
	For all staff	11*
First aid	For some staff	38
	For all staff	12*
*Includes DoD		

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends States:

- Require individuals in the child care workforce to have 24 hours or more of annual training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep and shaken baby prevention. All staff should have current certification in CPR and first aid.
- Require community-based training that is intentional, sequential, competency-based, tied with coaching and tied to outcomes.
- Create and expand more online training opportunities, training to better address the needs of children with special needs and children whose first language is not English.

Program Benchmark 6: Learning Activities

Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive development/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limited screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.

Child care centers have the potential for promoting children's healthy development and school readiness.

The quality of care that children receive, particularly given the many hours children spend in child care, has a direct impact on their short and long-term development.²⁹

Research over the past 20 years describes the phenomenal growth of the human brain from the prenatal period through age 5. During this time, children make significant gains in their social, emotional, physical and cognitive development.

There is evidence that children who are reading well by third grade entered kindergarten "ready to learn." Their experiences at home and in child care and other early education settings influenced how ready they were to start school.

A 2010 study by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) found that children at age 15, who had been in quality child care settings as young children, scored higher than their peers on academic and cognitive achievement and had fewer behavioral problems.³⁰

All states now have early learning guidelines in place that describe what children should know and be able to do at specific ages in all fundamental learning domains. Early learning guidelines help programs make decisions about assessment, curriculum, individualized instruction and professional development.

Curriculum planning related to early childhood domains is important regardless of setting to ensure varied activities designed to promote healthy development among children. Such planning should include all areas of development and should be integrated from birth through preschool and elementary school.

Planning should address the cultural needs of all children, including those who face the added challenge of developing language and literacy skills in a second language.

Yet, many states do not require child care centers to offer activities that promote development in key developmental domains. It is as if state early learning guidelines and child care operate in separate silos.

Recent public awareness of the problem of childhood obesity has highlighted the importance of providing young children with opportunities for physical activity throughout the day. Children need activities that let them exercise both body and mind to learn and grow.

Nearly 25 percent of children under age 5 are overweight or obese. Aside from promoting healthy meals and snacks, pediatric experts also recommend limiting screen time in child care as another way to promote healthy development.

Child Care Aware® of America scored the states' child care center regulations on whether they address the following areas:

- Language/literacy.
- Dramatic play.
- Active play.
- Cognitive development.
- Self-help skills.
- Creative activities.
- Limited screen time.
- Social development.
- Emotional development.
- Culturally sensitive activities.

State Policies

State policies vary greatly.

- Forty-eight states plus *DoD* require centers to plan learning activities; however, this requirement is often vague. Many states only require centers to post daily activities for parents to see.
- With the rise in childhood obesity in the United States, it is important that providers play a role in encouraging physical activity. All but three states (*Alabama, Idaho* and *Wyoming*) require active physical play.
- Twenty-four states plus *DoD* require center staff to teach children self-help skills such as dressing and feeding themselves.
- Twenty-six states and *DoD* limit the use of screen time.

The following table shows the number of states that require learning activities related to child development.

Number of States that Require Learning Activities Related to Child Development	
Child Development Activities	Number of States
Plan learning activities	49*
Language/literacy	44*
Dramatic play	36*
Active play	49*
Cognitive development	42*
Self-help skills	25*
Creative activities	42*
Limited screen time	27*
Social development activities	40*
Emotional development activities	39*
Culturally sensitive activities	25*
*Includes DoD	

- Six states (*Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky* and *Vermont*) plus *DoD* require centers to address all learning activities.
- In eight states (*Alabama, Arkansas, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska* and *Wyoming*), four or fewer learning activities are required to be addressed.
- *Idaho* does not require any learning activities.

The following table shows the number of areas related to learning activities that are addressed by states.

Number of States and the Number of Areas Addressed in Required Learning Activities	
Number of Domains	Number of States
None	1
1 to 4	7
5 to 7	5
8 to 10	32
All 11	7*
Total	52*
*Includes DoD	

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends States:

- Require child care centers to plan learning activities that address language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive development, self-help skills, creative activities, limited screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
- Require child care centers to use state early learning guidelines as a basis for assessment, curriculum decisions, individualized instruction and professional development plans.

Program Benchmark 7: Basic Health Standards

Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas: hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.

Children in child care should be in settings that protect and promote their health.

One of the few requirements under the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is that states must certify that there are policies in effect within the state, under state or local law, designed to protect the health and safety of children.³¹

While states are free to determine standards based on what they believe will best protect the health and safety of children, Child Care Aware® of America chose 10 individual standards to rate the health requirements in state regulations for child care centers. Each of these basic standards is supported by research and recommendations from experts and organizations in child health.

The following recommended health practices can help reduce the incidence of contagious disease among young children.

1. **Hand washing** is the single most effective way to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases, especially diarrheal diseases. Hygienic diapering and toileting procedures help reduce the spread of germs and reduce the spread of disease through the fecal-oral route.
2. **Nutritious meals and snacks** play an important role in health because the children often spend most of their day in child care centers.
3. **Immunizations** are an effective means of preventing the spread of infectious diseases among young children.
4. **Exclusion of ill children** protects both the sick child and other children in care.

5. **Following universal health precautions** protects adults and children from diseases and helps prevent the spread of human immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and hepatitis D.
6. **Medications must be administered** precisely according to a medical authority's instructions to prevent under- or over-dosing. Medicines must be inaccessible to children to prevent accidental poisoning.
7. **Toxic substances** should be kept out of children's reach. Child care centers should be kept free of cleaning products and other hazardous materials and products that can cause illness, injury or death to children.
8. **Sanitation** and disinfection help reduce the spread of germs in child care settings.
9. **Weekend/evening care** should have special precautions defined.
10. **Incident reporting** helps state agencies track the occurrence of incidents that put children in jeopardy and makes programs more accountable.

State Policies

Twenty-seven states plus DoD address all 10 of the recommended health areas.

- All the states and DoD have regulations regarding nutritious meals and snacks, administration of medication, protection from toxic substances and hazardous materials, and sanitation.
- All the states and DoD (except *Louisiana*) have regulations regarding hand washing/diapering/toileting and immunizations.
- All the states and DoD (except *Idaho* and *Nebraska*) have regulations regarding excluding sick children.

- All the states and DoD (except *Hawaii* and *Nebraska*) have requirements to report serious incidents to the state licensing agency.
- Only 33 states plus DoD have regulations about universal health precautions (e.g., safety related procedures used when coming into contact with bodily fluids).
- Seventeen states require child care centers to address nine of the 10 health areas.
- Nebraska only requires centers to follow six of the recommended health areas.



The following table shows the number of states that have specific health requirements.

Specific Health Practices Required By Number of States	
Health Requirement	Number of States
Hand washing, diapering and toileting	51*
Nutritious meals and snacks	52*
Immunizations	51*
Exclusion of ill children	50*
Universal health requirements	34*
Administration of medication	52*
Toxic substances and hazards	52*
Sanitation	52*
Weekend and evening care	43*
Incidence reporting	50*
*Includes DoD	

The following table shows the number of states that require a specific number of health areas.

Number of Health Areas Required By Number of States	
Number of Areas	Number of States
6	1
8	6
9	17
All 10	28*
Total	52*
*Includes DoD	

Two Categories of Centers Can Be Confusing for Parents

Louisiana has two types of child care regulations: Class A and Class B. Class A programs are eligible to receive state and federal funding and have important health and safety protections for children. For *Louisiana* children receiving a child care subsidy in licensed care (34,800), Class A care provides important protections for children. However, the most recent Census Bureau data shows that about 237,200 children under age 6 in *Louisiana* have working parents and therefore could need child care.

Because it is unclear whether these parents understand the difference between Class A and Class B centers, this report scores Class B which:

- Allows corporal punishment.
- Does not require a background check and allows convicted felons to work in child care centers.
- Requires three hours of annual training or continuing education compared to 12 hours in Class A centers, AND there is no approval process for such training compared to Class A centers where courses must be approved by the Department of Social Services.
- Allows for a greater number of children per staff member to be cared for in each classroom compared to Class A centers.

- Does not require additional staff in the case of a child with special needs who may require more attention or more effective interaction.

Parents need to know that their children will be safe in child care. In order for parents to select care that will protect their children, they need to understand various licensing or regulatory requirements that apply to varying types of child care in a state. This is an example of where consumer education can make a difference in helping parents to understand complicated regulatory structures. At the same time, it is an example of a category of care sanctioned by a state that parents might logically assume means it is safe, when in reality, few requirements apply.

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends States:

- Require child care centers to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas: hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.

Program Benchmark 8: Basic Safety Standards

Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas: SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation supervision and firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Corporal punishment is prohibited.

All children should be safe while they are in child care centers.

One of the few requirements under the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is that a state must certify that there are policies in effect within the state, under state or local law, designed to protect the health and safety of children.³²

While states are free to determine standards based on what they believe will best protect the health and safety of children, Child Care Aware® of America chose 10 individual standards to rate the safety requirements in state regulations for child care centers.

Each of these basic standards is supported by research and recommendations from experts and organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Public Health Association. For example, placing infants on their backs to sleep reduces the potential for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

The following 10 basic safety practices are essential for promoting the safety of children in child care settings.³³

1. **Placing infants on their backs to sleep** and other safe sleeping practices reduces the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).
2. **Appropriate discipline/child guidance** promotes development and protects children from abuse and neglect.
3. **Electrical hazards** can cause serious or fatal injuries through electrical shock. Cords can cause strangulation or tripping.
4. **Water** presents special hazards to children. Every year, young children drown in bathtubs, swimming pools and other bodies of water, large and small.
5. **Fire Drills** prepare child care providers to quickly evacuate infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children in the event of fire or other emergency in order to prevent injury and death.
6. **Outdoor playground surfaces** need adequate impact absorbing surfacing materials to protect children from fractures and concussions due to falls from climbing equipment.
7. **Emergency plans** ensure child care providers are prepared to protect children before and during natural or man-made disasters.
8. **Supervision** is basic to preventing children from being injured. Providers must be able to see and hear children in order to respond quickly to protect them.
9. **Transportation** guidelines should cover strategies for making sure no children are left in parked vehicles. They should also cover use of safety belts and car seats.
10. **Firearm policies** that prohibit or control access protect young children from potentially dangerous situations.

Harsh discipline, especially corporal punishment, is a form of child abuse that should be expressly forbidden in each state. States that allow corporal punishment receive a zero score in the basic safety area.

- *Idaho, Louisiana and South Carolina* do not prohibit corporal punishment. For the safety benchmark, these three states scored zero, even though they required other items.



State Policies

Twenty-eight states address all 10 of the recommended safety areas.

Almost all states address discipline, protection from bodies of water, fire drills and direct supervision of children. Most states also address electrical hazards.

- **Fourteen states plus DoD address nine of the 10 recommended areas.**

- *Idaho* and *Rhode Island* only require centers to address five of the recommended areas.

Whether it is an emergency related to a natural disaster like a tornado or snow storm or a potential emergency related to an intruder who could inflict violence on the children in the center, it is important for child care centers to have an emergency plan.

- All but three states (*Idaho*, *North Carolina* and *Rhode Island*) require an emergency plan for child care centers.

A basic safety practice in child care centers involves placing infants on their back to sleep to reduce the likelihood of accidental suffocation. This type of death can be prevented by appropriate sleeping positions as recommended by the American Academy

of Pediatrics. Yet, only 47 states have specific requirements about safe sleep positions for infants.

- *California*, *Hawaii*, *Idaho*, *Louisiana* and *Nebraska* do not require safe sleep positions for infants in child care centers.

Whether or not in child care settings, playground accidents are the most frequent setting in which children sustain an injury. Child care centers should review their policies to ensure that playgrounds are as safe as possible. More progress is needed to address safety issues involving outdoor playgrounds.

- *Idaho*, *Iowa*, *Louisiana*, *Maryland*, *Minnesota*, *North Dakota* and *South Dakota* do not have requirements with regard to safe playground surfaces.

Particularly in warmer temperatures, children unattended in vehicles, including child care center vans, can lead to tragedy. Yet, many states do not have specific requirements related to transportation safety.

- Twenty-one states explicitly require a head count when children leave vehicles.
- Another 20 states prohibit children from being left unattended in vehicles.

- Ten states (*Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, Rhode Island and South Dakota*) and DoD do not have any requirements related to accounting for children in child care center vehicles.

More supervision and oversight of children in child care vehicles is needed.

The following table shows the number of states that require specific safety areas.

Specific Safety Practices Required By Number of States	
Safety Requirement	Number of States
SIDS prevention	47*
Discipline	51*
Fire drills	51*
Outdoor playground surfaces	45*
Emergency plans	49*
Electrical hazards	50*
Water hazards	51*
Supervision	52*
Transportation supervision	41
Firearms regulation	41 [^]
Prohibit corporal punishment	49*
*Includes DoD	
<p>Note: <i>Idaho, Louisiana</i> and <i>South Carolina</i> scored zero on this benchmark because they do not prohibit corporal punishment.</p> <p>[^] In <i>Maryland</i>, firearms are prohibited except in small centers in residences. In <i>Utah</i>, firearms are regulated, but regulations permit carrying concealed weapons.</p>	

The following table shows the number of safety areas that states require.

Number of Safety Areas Required By Number of States	
Number of Areas	Number of States
5	2
7	3
8	4
9	15*
All 10	28
Total	52*
*Includes DoD	

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends States:

- Require child care centers to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas: SIDS prevention, discipline/ guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count) and firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Program Benchmark 9: Parent Communication

Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and share written policies with parents.

Families and child care providers are partners in the care of children. Involving families in their children's programs benefits everyone. Families have valuable information about their individual child's needs and preferences, and child care providers have an important perspective about child development.

Open and Frequent Communication

Ongoing communication with families allows providers and families to give children individualized learning opportunities and use consistent discipline approaches. Informal, daily communication during arrival and departure lets parents and providers share information related to children's daily activities, special diets and allergies, accidents, physical and emotional well-being, specific fears and traumas, and family events.

Communication is especially important when care is provided for infants, toddlers and nonverbal children when parents need to know about feeding, sleeping and other routine activities. Such communication is most successful when providers respect families' cultural differences.

Parental Access

Parents should have access to child care centers when their children are receiving child care services without prior notice during all hours of operation. Access should not disrupt instructional activities and classroom routines, but parents should feel welcome at any time as long as their child is in attendance.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the law that allocates funds to states for child care and sets the framework for state child care laws, contains few requirements. However, under the act, states are required to certify that procedures are in force within the state to ensure that child care providers who receive CCDBG assistance, *afford parents unlimited access to their children and to the*

*providers caring for their children, during the normal hours of operation of such providers and whenever such children are in the care of such providers and provide a detailed description of such procedures.*³⁴

Written Policies

Sharing written policies with families allows families the chance to understand and commit to program policies and practices. Families need information about policies such as:

- Medication administration.
- Field trips.
- Transportation.
- Behavior guidance.
- Immunizations.
- Verification about individuals authorized to pick up a child.
- Consequences if a child is not picked up at the designated time.
- Care of sick children.
- Use of screen time, including TV and video games.
- Reporting suspicions of child abuse or neglect.
- Availability of inspection reports.
- Plans for emergencies.

Encourage Family Involvement

Family involvement opportunities range from attending family meetings, to volunteering in activities to support the center, to participating in policy board/committees. Involvement also includes involving parents in planning to meet the needs of their children, including Individualized Education Plans, if needed.

State Policies

Considering the fact that parents are a child care center's primary customer, it is noteworthy that states have little emphasis on practices related to working with parents.

- All states and *DoD* require centers to allow parents access to the child care program while their child is in care.
- Twenty-six states plus *DoD* require centers to encourage parents to be involved in the center.
- Only 29 states plus *DoD* require daily or regular communication with all parents about how their child's day went. An additional 11 states require regular communication with parents of infants and toddlers.
- Forty-two states plus *DoD* require that providers share written policies with parents.

The following table shows the number of states that require specific strategies related to communicating and working with parents.

Number of States with Specific Requirements Related to Parents	
Parent Strategies	Number of States
Encourage parent involvement	27*
Ongoing communication with parents	41*
Only for parents of infants and toddlers	11
All parents	30*
Allow parent access when child is present	52*
Share written policies	43*
*Includes DoD	

- Only 21 states and *DoD* met all four parent communication requirements.
- In four states (*Arkansas, Idaho, Nebraska* and *South Dakota*), the only requirement for centers is to allow parents access to their children.

The following table shows the number of states that require a specific number of parent involvement elements.

Number of States that Require Specific Parent Involvement Elements	
Number of Elements	Number of States
4	22*
3	19
2	7
1	4
Total	52*
*Includes DoD	

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends States:

- Require child care centers to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and share written policies with parents.

Program Benchmark 10: Staff:Child Ratios

Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.

Staff:child ratios are a major determinant of the quality of the experience children have in early childhood programs.

Low ratios are an important predictor of caregiver behavior, especially for caregivers of infants and toddlers and young children. The following benefits of lower ratios have been cited in numerous research studies:

Health

- There are lower rates of disease because providers are better able to monitor and promote healthy practices and behaviors.³⁵
- There are fewer situations involving potential danger (such as children climbing on furniture).³⁶

Behavior

- Children feel more emotionally secure when there are more caregivers. There are higher rates of secure attachments between toddlers and their providers.³⁷ Children are more likely to have positive interactions with providers.³⁸
- When there are more caregivers, infants and toddlers appear less distressed. Toddlers appear less apathetic.³⁹
- Children are more likely to be engaged in activities rated as good or very good.⁴⁰

Adult behavior

- Providers offer more individualized attention that is stimulating, responsive, warm and supportive.⁴¹
- Providers engage in more verbal interactive communication with children.⁴²
- Providers engage in more educational activities (e.g., teaching and promoting problem solving) with children.⁴³



- Providers are better able to monitor children's behavior, less restrictive of children's behavior and spend less time addressing behavior issues.⁴⁴
- There are fewer incidents of child abuse.⁴⁵

Standards for Staff:Child Ratios

Child Care Aware® of America uses the staff:child ratios that are recommended by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in its accreditation standards. Children with special needs may require the presence of additional adults.

The following table shows NAEYC's accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in centers for six age groups.

NAEYC Accreditation Standards for Staff:Child Ratios	
Age of Child	Staff:Child Ratio
Birth to 15 months	1:3 to 1:4
12 to 28 months	1:3 to 1:4
21 to 36 months	1:4 to 1:6
2 to 3 years	1:6 to 1:9
4 years	1:8 to 1:10
5 years	1:8 to 1:10

State Policies

There is considerable variance among the states in the staff:child ratios they require for child care centers.

Infants: Thirty-five states and DoD meet NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios for infants (6 months and 9 months).

Toddlers: Fourteen states (*Connecticut, District of Columbia, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin*) require the recommended ratios for 18-month-olds. Twenty states meet recommended staff:child ratios for 27-month-olds.

- **3-Year-Olds:** Nine states (*District of Columbia, Iowa, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island and Tennessee*) require the recommended ratios for 3-year-olds.
- **4-Year-Olds:** Nineteen states require the recommended ratios for 4-year-olds.
- **5-Year-Olds:** Nine states (*Connecticut, District of Columbia, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Vermont and Washington*) require the recommended ratios for 5-year-olds.

The following table shows the number and percent of states that require NAEYC staff:child ratios for seven specific ages that Child Care Aware® of America chose for comparison purposes.

Number of States That Meet NAEYC Accreditation Standards for Staff:Child Ratios for Specific Ages	
Age of Child	Number of States Requiring NAEYC Ratios
6 months	37*
9 months	36*
18 months	14
27 months	20
3 years	9
4 years	19
5 years	9
*Includes DoD	

Some states require NAEYC staff:child ratios for one specific age but not for other age groups.

- The *District of Columbia* is the only state that requires NAEYC recommended staff:child ratios for all seven age groups.
- Thirty-two states and DoD require NAEYC staff:child ratios for three or fewer age groups.
- Thirteen states (*Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio and South Carolina*) do not require NAEYC recommended staff:child ratios for any age.

The following table shows the number and percent of states that require centers to meet NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios for one or more of the seven specified ages that Child Care Aware® of America chose for comparison purposes.

Number of Age Groups in States that Meet NAEYC Standards for Accreditation for Staff:Child Ratios	
Number of Age Groups Where Standards Met	Number of States Requiring
0	13
1	1
2	9*
3	10
4	6
5	7
6	5
7	1
Total	52*
*Includes DoD	

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends States:

- Require child care centers to meet NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratio requirements for all age groups.

Program Benchmark 11: Group Size

Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.

One of the most important factors related to child safety and healthy development is the size of the group – particularly for young children.

Group size refers to the number of children who are assigned to an individual classroom or distinct space within a larger room. Group sizes should be based on children's ages and should be smaller for younger children in order to ensure safe, nurturing care.

Numerous research studies have noted the benefits to children when the number of children in a group is lower.

Health and safety

- When group sizes are smaller, children have a lower risk of infection. The risk of illness in children between the ages of 1 and 3 years increases as the group size increases to four or more.⁴⁶
- Limiting the number of very young children or infants facilitates evacuating the center in case of a fire or other sudden emergency.

Children's behavior

- Children in smaller groups are more cooperative, compliant and have greater social competence.⁴⁷
- There is evidence of less hyperactivity, anxiety and aggression in the classroom.⁴⁸
- Providers and children have more positive social interactions.⁴⁹
- Children feel more emotionally secure.⁵⁰
- Children use higher levels of language and cognitive skills and engage in more complex play.⁵¹

Adult behavior

- Providers have more positive, nurturing interactions with children and provide children with more individualized attention.⁵²
- Providers offer more developmentally appropriate classroom activities.⁵³

Standards for Group Size

Child Care Aware® of America uses as a benchmark the group size requirements that are recommended by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in its accreditation criteria. When children with special needs are enrolled, a smaller group size may be required.

The following table shows the group sizes recommended by NAEYC for children at specific ages.

NAEYC Accreditation Standards for Group Sizes	
Age of Child	Size of Group
Birth to 15 months	6-8 children
12 to 28 months	6-8 children
21 to 36 months	8-12 children
2 to 3 years	12-18 children
4 years	16-20 children
5 years	16-20 children

State Policies

There is a considerable difference among the states in their requirements for group size. States that regulate group size are most likely to meet NAEYC group size requirements for infants and young toddlers.

- Eleven states (*Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, South Carolina and Virginia*) do not define maximum group size in regulations.

- Twenty-one states and *DoD* limit the group size for 6-month-olds at or below NAEYC accreditation standards.
- Twenty-two states and *DoD* limit the group size for 9-month-olds at or below NAEYC accreditation standards.
- Only seven states (*Connecticut, Missouri, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Vermont and Wisconsin*) require centers to meet NAEYC group size accreditation standards for 18-month-olds.
- Only six states (*District of Columbia, Mississippi, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island and Tennessee*) require states to meet NAEYC accreditation standards for 3-year-olds.
- Only 18 states require centers to meet NAEYC group size accreditation standards for 4-year-olds.

Some states meet NAEYC group size accreditation standards for one age group but not for other age groups.

No state requires child care centers to meet NAEYC accreditation standards for group size for all age groups.

- Three states (*Connecticut, North Dakota and Vermont*) meet the recommendations for six of the seven age groups.
- Three states (*the District of Columbia, Oregon and Rhode Island*) meet recommendations for five of the seven age groups.
- Sixteen states and *DoD* require NAEYC accreditation group size standards for three or fewer age groups.
- In 22 states, including the 11 states that do not regulate group size, the requirements for group size do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any age group.

The following table shows the number of states that meet NAEYC's accreditation standards for maximum group sizes for the seven ages that Child Care Aware® of America chose for comparison purposes.

Number of States That Meet NAEYC Accreditation Standards for Group Sizes for Specific Ages	
Age of Child	Number of States Requiring
6 months	22*
9 months	23*
18 months	7
27 months	16
3 years	6
4 years	18
5 years	10
*Includes DoD	

The following table shows the number of states that require centers to meet NAEYC's accreditation standards for maximum group sizes for seven specific ages that Child Care Aware® of America chose for comparison purposes.

Number of Age Groups in States That Meet NAEYC Accreditation Group Size Standards	
Number of Age Groups Meeting Group Size Standard	Number of States
0	22
1	3
2	9*
3	5
4	7
5	3
6	3
7	0
Total	52*
*Includes DoD	

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends States:

- Require child care centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in seven age groups.

Oversight Benchmark 1: Frequency of Inspections

Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.

Inspections help ensure those providing a service for the public good are meeting minimum basic health and safety standards.

Without inspections, consumers (in the case of child care, parents) cannot know whether the service or product they are purchasing is really safe.

Most major services today have regular inspections:

- Restaurants are inspected.
- Hospitals are inspected.
- Roads and bridges are inspected.
- Public buildings are inspected.

Even services that are more consumer oriented are inspected:

- Dog groomers are inspected.
- Beauty salons are inspected.
- The food available in grocery stores is inspected.

Children deserve the same level of protection.

Child care monitoring can include inspections for compliance with licensing requirements, fire standards, building codes, and health and safety requirements.

Frequent, unannounced inspections help ensure children are safe and that child care settings comply with state requirements.

Research Supports Inspections

Research has shown that inspections make a difference in the quality of care:

- Programs that are inspected more frequently are more likely to adhere to required regulations.⁵⁴

- Frequent, unannounced inspections prevent providers from covering up violations, especially when there is a history of violations and/or sanctions or complaints.
- Inspecting child care settings is associated with lower rates of accidents requiring medical attention.⁵⁵
- On-site guidance during inspections helps providers improve the level of care they offer.
- There is increased accountability for how federal and state funds are spent.

Parents Support Inspections

Child Care Aware® of America's nationwide polling of parents with young children found that two-thirds of parents logically assume child care is regularly inspected. Furthermore, 90 percent of parents support regular inspections.

Federal Funding

There is **no** requirement under the current Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) that child care programs be inspected. In contrast, under the Military Child Care Act, Congress required quarterly inspections of child care programs.

State Policies

Inspection requirements throughout the states vary greatly.

Frequent inspections

- Eleven states (*Arkansas, Florida, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wyoming*) plus DoD conduct four or more inspections a year, which includes inspections from the licensing office as well as fire marshals and health/sanitation departments.

- Thirty states plus *DoD* inspect child care centers two or more times a year, which includes inspections from the licensing office as well as fire and health/sanitation departments.
- In *Montana*, the number of inspections depends on the licensing type. Montana offers one-, two- and three-year licenses depending on whether the facility meets the criteria for that licensing type. Programs with no violations have extended registration up to three years. Programs with violations receive a regular one-year license. During the period of October 1, 2011-September 30, 2012, 69 percent of centers received a monitoring visit from the licensing office. In addition, fire and health/sanitation inspections occur once a year).
- In *Wisconsin*, the minimum number of required inspections is one visit per year if the center has a capacity of 50 or fewer or two visits per year if the center has a capacity of 50 or more. In addition, a fire inspection is required every year.
- By regulation, *Alaska* inspects facilities once every two years; however, Alaska has an internal practice of conducting at least one announced and one unannounced inspection per program per year.
- In *New Jersey*, regulations indicate child care center renewal inspections occur every three years. However, child care inspection staff currently conduct annual monitoring inspections. Other inspections are conducted as circumstances or concerns arise such as complaint investigations or requests to change the center's license such as new space approval.
- *Vermont* does not have a regulation or policy requiring regular inspections; however, licensing staff strive for annual inspections.

The following table shows the number of states that require specific numbers of inspections each year.

Number and Percent of States by Frequency of Inspections			
Number of Required Inspections Per Year	Number of States	Percent of States	Licensing Office Inspections Per Year
More than Four	4	8%	2
Four	8*	15%	0
Three	10	19%	4
Two	9	17%	13*
One	12	23%	22
Less than 1 Per Year	9	17%	11
*Includes DoD			
Other inspections include fire inspections, health and safety inspections, and building inspections.			

Infrequent inspections

- Nine states (*Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Vermont*) do not require any type of inspection at least once a year.
- *California* is required to conduct licensing inspections of child care centers every five years or less.
- In *Idaho*, the two state licensing staff do not conduct licensing inspections. Contractors handle licensing documentation along with other responsibilities.

Number of Inspections Can Exceed Requirements

Some states inspect more frequently than state regulations require. For purposes of this report, credit for the frequency of inspection is based on what is required in statute or written policy and not on current practice.

Strategies to Strengthen State Monitoring

With the current weak economy and resulting state budget cuts, a number of states are exploring varying strategies to improve child care monitoring and strengthen compliance with basic health and safety standards.

Several states are developing a *key indicator model* for inspections. This strategy allows staff to conduct an abbreviated inspection using a subset of rules that has been statistically shown to predict compliance or noncompliance with all rules.

- Programs that are substantially in compliance with licensing regulations get an abbreviated review.
- Programs with significant compliance issues get a more comprehensive inspection; are monitored more frequently; and receive targeted technical assistance.

The success of this strategy depends on having licensing regulations that are comprehensive, measurable and based on nationally recognized benchmarks. If licensing regulations are weak, strong oversight will be ineffective.

California's Key Indicator Model

The *California* risk-based assessment tool is designed to assess compliance with key indicators of compliance and risk. The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) reviewed the 50 most frequently cited regulations. Some violations were classified as “zero tolerance” violations. Each regulation was rated and ranked to see if it was a predictor of compliance and of health and safety risk.

From this information, CCLD developed Key Indicator Tools that use all the licensing regulation elements. The tools were validated with field staff, advocates, administrative actions data and incident reports, and were field tested. Only programs that are currently in compliance with licensing regulations are eligible for the Key Indicator inspection. About 10-15 percent of inspections triggered a comprehensive inspection.⁵⁶ Once all programs have a base review, an assessment can be done to demonstrate the effectiveness of California's system.

More evaluation is needed to see how effective risk-based assessment strategies are, but initial accounts look promising.

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends Congress:

- Require all child care programs to undergo quarterly unannounced inspections (similar to the nation's military child care system).
- Require a set-aside within the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) for licensing related activities.
- Require states to demonstrate how they will measure child care provider compliance with state standards, laws and policies.
- Grant the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) the authority to withhold funds from states without effective oversight.
- Provide discretionary funds to the HHS Office of Child Care to provide better oversight of state implementation of CCDBG.

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends States:

- Require inspections of child care centers before licensing (before children are admitted into care), at least quarterly, and when there is a complaint.

Oversight Benchmark 2: Posting Inspection Reports

Inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.

In the United States, a basic premise is that parents are responsible for choosing child care that best suits their family's needs and values.

For parents to make informed choices about the best care for their children, they need access to information.

One of the key sources of information about the health, safety and quality of individual child care programs is the licensing reports that result from routine inspections and inspections conducted in response to complaints.

When parents do not have access to these reports, they have no way of knowing whether a program is in compliance with state requirements.

Posting inspection reports on the Internet is important to ensure that parents have access to relevant information to help them make the best child care choices possible.

Research from *Florida* showed benefits of posting inspection and complaint reports online in a user-friendly and easily accessible format:⁵⁷

- Programs were inspected more frequently.
- Inspectors were more likely to provide more nuanced reviews of programs.
- The quality of child care, especially care received by children from low-income families increased after inspection reports were made available on the Internet.

When states do not make the information available or when parents must visit licensing offices or wait for written responses to inquiries about specific programs, parents do not have easy access to information essential to making an informed decision about child care settings. The result is that some parents unknowingly put their children in unsafe and unhealthy situations.



State Policies

Publicity about tragic accidents in child care and recent changes in technology has resulted in more states making inspection findings available to parents on the Internet.

Currently slightly more than half of the states make inspection reports and complaint reports easily available to parents.

- Twenty-six states have both regular monitoring and complaint reports on the Internet.
- Thirty-one states plus *DoD* have inspection reports online. *Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri* and *Utah* have added online reports since our last center-based report in 2011.
- Twenty-eight states have complaint reports online.
- Eighteen states have neither regular monitoring nor complaint reports on the Internet.

Child Care Aware® of America expects to see more progress with regard to posting inspection reports on the Internet in coming years as states continue to develop their data systems and web capabilities.

The following table has information about the number of states that post information about licensing reports and complaints online.

Child Care Center Online Inspection and Complaint Reports by Number of States	
Report	Number of States
Inspection reports online	32*
Complaint reports online	28
Both inspection reports and complaint reports online	26
Neither inspection nor complaint reports online	18
*Includes DoD	

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends States:

- Ensure transparency in licensing by allowing parents to access inspection reports on the Internet.
- Share suspension and violation information with Child Care Resource and Referral agencies so that agencies do not make referrals to programs that may be unsafe.

Oversight Benchmark 3: Oversight Caseloads

Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.

A manageable caseload for licensing staff protects children from unhealthy and unsafe care and helps improve quality.

A caseload of no more than 50 child care programs per licensing staff member allows more effective monitoring.

States have different ways of assigning programs to licensing staff. In some states, staff are only assigned to child care centers. Other states assign staff to both child care centers and family child care homes. Still other states include both child care programs and other human services programs in determining licensing staff responsibilities.

State policies

There are vast discrepancies in caseloads. In most states, the caseload is too large to allow licensing staff to conduct frequent and meaningful inspections.

- The average caseload is 98.
- Just four states (*Alaska, Oklahoma South Dakota and Tennessee*) plus *DoD* have a staff caseload of 50 programs or fewer per licensing staff.
- Seventeen states that have a caseload of 101 programs or more per licensing staff, which is twice the recommended caseload or more.
- In *Idaho*, there are only two state licensing staff. They do not conduct licensing inspections. Local contractors handle licensing documentation along with other responsibilities.
- Three states (*Connecticut, Rhode Island and Vermont*) have a caseload of more than 200 programs per staff, which is four times or more of the recommended caseload.
- *Vermont* is hiring new licensing staff in 2013 that will reduce caseloads from the 256:1 recorded in our 2011 report to 178:1.

The following table shows the number of states that have specific program:licensing staff ratios.

Number of States with Specific Licensing Staff Caseloads	
Program: Licensing Staff Ratio	Number of States
50:1 or fewer	5*
51 - 60:1	2
61-70:1	12
71-80:1	3
81-90:1	9
91-100:1	3
101 or more	17
State staff do not have inspection caseloads	1
Total	52*
*Includes DoD	

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends States:

- Ensure adequate oversight by reducing licensing staff caseloads to a ratio of no more than 50:1 to ensure compliance with state standards so that children are safe in child care and in a setting that promotes their healthy development.

Oversight Benchmark 4: Licensing Staff Qualifications

Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.

Licensing staff are responsible for understanding and interpreting state child care licensing requirements and assessing whether child care centers are in compliance.

Effective oversight requires knowledge of child development, child care, regulatory requirements and technical assistance resources (such as CCR&Rs, other professional development organizations, fire inspectors and building inspectors).

Staff assignments and responsibilities vary. Some staff are only assigned to child care centers. Other states assign staff to both child care centers and family child care home providers. Still other states include both child care programs and other human services programs under the purview of state licensing offices.

If licensing staff do not fully understand the intent of regulations, they are more likely to ignore situations in which children's health and safety may be jeopardized.

State Policies

State policies with regard to educational requirements for licensing staff vary.

- More than two-thirds of the states (37 plus *DoD*) require at least a bachelor's degree,
- Thirteen states employ licensing staff who have less than an associate degree. Given the complexity of licensing regulations and the need to interpret them for providers, it is beneficial for licensing staff to have appropriate educational preparation and ongoing training.
- Twenty-two states plus *DoD* require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree or a master's degree in early childhood education or a related field.

The following table shows the number of states that require specific levels of education for licensing staff.

Number of States Requiring Specific Licensing Staff Qualifications	
Licensing Staff Education Requirement	Number of States
Less than an associate degree	13
Associate degree in early childhood education (ECE) or related field	1
Bachelor's in unrelated field	15
Bachelor's in ECE or related field	22*
Masters in ECE or related field	1
Total	52*
*Includes DoD	

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends States:

- Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.



Ranking of States

Scores and Ranking for Program and Oversight Benchmarks Combined

Child Care Aware® of America chose 15 key benchmarks essential for quality in child care centers. Fifty-one states (including the *District of Columbia*) and the *Department of Defense (DoD)* were assessed, assigned points based on state regulations and policies, and ranked based on their performance.

States could receive a maximum of 10 points for each of the areas scored or partial credit based on state requirements. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150.

Although this report reviews both program requirements and oversight requirements and scores each separately, states were ranked based on their total combined scores. **The average score in 2013 was 92, which equates to 61 percent or a grade of D.**

Scores for the Top 10 states ranged from 130 to 106. No state earned an “A,” and only *DoD* earned a “B.” The remaining top 10 states (*New York, Washington, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin, Delaware, Illinois, Minnesota* and *Tennessee*) earned a “C.” Twenty states earned a “D,” and the remaining 21 states earned a score of 60 or less, a failing grade in any classroom.

This report was finalized in February 2013. Some states and *DoD* have pending policy changes that are scheduled to take place in 2013 after this report is printed. While it is encouraging to see progress in the pipeline, this report scores policies actually

in place. Future updates will score pending policy changes once implemented.

States Show Progress

States made modest improvement in health and safety, oversight, emergency procedures and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) prevention since our 2011 report.

- *New York* and *DoD* scored in the top 10 for total scores. They were the only two child care center systems that also scored in the top 10 for both program standards and oversight.
- Three states (*California, Idaho* and *Nebraska*) scored in the bottom 10 for both oversight and program requirements.

Progress has been made in many states since Child Care Aware® of America’s initial report in 2007, but more progress is needed to really ensure that children are safe and in a quality setting.

The following table shows states that scored in the top 10 and the bottom 10 for total scores.

Total Scores and Rankings for Child Care Center Program Requirements and Oversight							
Top 10 States				Bottom 10 States			
State	Final Score	Percent of Total	Rank	State	Final Score	Percent of Total	Rank
Department of Defense	130	87%	1	Arkansas	82	55%	41
New York	116	77%	2	Connecticut	82	55%	41
Washington	114	76%	3	Mississippi	82	55%	41
North Dakota	112	75%	4	Iowa	81	54%	44
Oklahoma	112	75%	4	South Carolina	80	53%	45
Texas	112	75%	4	Wyoming	79	53%	46
Wisconsin	110	73%	7	Maine	76	51%	47
Delaware	108	72%	8	Alabama	67	45%	48
Illinois	108	72%	8	Louisiana	57	38%	49
Minnesota	106	71%	10	California	51	34%	50
Tennessee	106	71%	10	Nebraska	47	31%	51
				Idaho	23	15%	52
Total possible score is 150							

The following table contains total scores for all states in declining order.

Total Child Care Center Scores and Ranks for All States in Declining Order			
States	Final Score	Percent of Total Score	Rank
Department of Defense	130	87%	1
New York	116	77%	2
Washington	114	76%	3
North Dakota	112	75%	4
Oklahoma	112	75%	4
Texas	112	75%	4
Wisconsin	110	73%	7
Delaware	108	72%	8
Illinois	108	72%	8
Minnesota	106	71%	10
Tennessee	106	71%	10
Indiana	105	70%	12
New Hampshire	104	69%	13
Virginia	104	69%	13
District of Columbia	103	69%	15
Utah	101	67%	16
New Jersey	99	66%	17
Maryland	98	65%	18

Total Child Care Center Scores and Ranks for All States in Declining Order

States	Final Score	Percent of Total Score	Rank
Massachusetts	98	65%	18
West Virginia	98	65%	18
North Carolina	97	65%	21
Arizona	96	64%	22
Georgia	96	64%	22
Pennsylvania	96	64%	22
Florida	95	63%	25
New Mexico	95	63%	25
Rhode Island	94	63%	27
Kansas	93	62%	28
Michigan	92	61%	29
Nevada	92	61%	29
South Dakota	92	61%	29
Oregon	91	61%	32
Missouri	90	60%	33
Ohio	90	60%	33
Alaska	88	59%	35
Colorado	88	59%	35
Vermont	88	59%	35
Montana	86	57%	38
Kentucky	85	57%	39
Hawaii	83	55%	40
Arkansas	82	55%	41
Connecticut	82	55%	42
Mississippi	82	55%	43
Iowa	81	54%	44
South Carolina	80	53%	45
Wyoming	79	53%	46
Maine	76	51%	47
Alabama	67	45%	48
Louisiana	57	38%	49
California	51	34%	50
Nebraska	47	31%	51
Idaho	23	15%	52

Total Possible Score is 150 points.

The following table includes total scores by state in alphabetical order.

Total Child Care Center Scores and Ranks for All States in Alphabetical Order			
States	Final Score	Percent of Total Score	Rank
Alabama	67	45%	48
Alaska	88	59%	35
Arizona	96	64%	22
Arkansas	82	55%	41
California	51	34%	50
Colorado	88	59%	35
Connecticut	82	55%	42
Delaware	108	72%	8
Department of Defense	130	87%	1
District of Columbia	103	69%	15
Florida	95	63%	25
Georgia	96	64%	22
Hawaii	83	55%	40
Idaho	23	15%	52
Illinois	108	72%	8
Indiana	105	70%	12
Iowa	81	54%	44
Kansas	93	62%	28
Kentucky	85	57%	39
Louisiana	57	38%	49
Maine	76	51%	47
Maryland	98	65%	18
Massachusetts	98	65%	18
Michigan	92	61%	29
Minnesota	106	71%	10
Mississippi	82	55%	43
Missouri	90	60%	33
Montana	86	57%	38
Nebraska	47	31%	51
Nevada	92	61%	29
New Hampshire	104	69%	13
New Jersey	99	66%	17
New Mexico	95	63%	25
New York	116	77%	2
North Carolina	97	65%	21
North Dakota	112	75%	4
Ohio	90	60%	33
Oklahoma	112	75%	4

Total Child Care Center Scores and Ranks for All States in Alphabetical Order

States	Final Score	Percent of Total Score	Rank
Oregon	91	61%	32
Pennsylvania	96	64%	22
Rhode Island	94	63%	27
South Carolina	80	53%	45
South Dakota	92	61%	29
Tennessee	106	71%	10
Texas	112	75%	4
Utah	101	67%	16
Vermont	88	59%	35
Virginia	104	69%	13
Washington	114	76%	3
West Virginia	98	65%	18
Wisconsin	110	73%	7
Wyoming	79	53%	46
Total Possible Score is 150 points.			

Ranking of States for Program Benchmarks

Child Care Center Program Benchmarks

The following 11 program benchmarks were used to score the states:

- **Program Benchmark 1:** A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.
- **Program Benchmark 2:** Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.
- **Program Benchmark 3:** Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.
- **Program Benchmark 4:** Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
- **Program Benchmark 5:** Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
- **Program Benchmark 6:** Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive development, self-help skills, creative activities, limited screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
- **Program Benchmark 7:** Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas: hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
- **Program Benchmark 8:** Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas: SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation supervision and firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Corporal punishment is prohibited.
- **Program Benchmark 9:** Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and share written policies with parents.
- **Program Benchmark 10:** Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.
- **Program Benchmark 11:** Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.

The following table shows the program requirements score, percent of score and rankings for all the states in rank order.

Child Care Center Program Requirement Scores in Declining Order			
State	Program Score	Program Percent	Rank
Department of Defense	95	86%	1
Massachusetts	93	85%	2
New Jersey	90	82%	3
Wisconsin	88	80%	4
Rhode Island	87	79%	5
Minnesota	86	78%	6
North Dakota	86	78%	6
Delaware	85	77%	8
Washington	83	75%	9
District of Columbia	82	75%	10
Illinois	82	75%	10
Indiana	82	75%	10
New York	82	75%	10
Pennsylvania	79	72%	14
Texas	79	72%	14
Alaska	78	71%	16
New Hampshire	78	71%	16
Tennessee	78	71%	16
Vermont	78	71%	16
Connecticut	77	70%	20
Maryland	75	68%	21
Oklahoma	75	68%	21
Maine	73	66%	23
Oregon	73	66%	23
West Virginia	72	65%	25
Michigan	69	63%	26
Nevada	69	63%	26
Utah	68	62%	28
Virginia	68	62%	28
Arizona	67	61%	30
Colorado	67	61%	30
New Mexico	67	61%	32
Georgia	66	60%	33
South Dakota	65	59%	34
Hawaii	63	57%	35
Iowa	63	57%	35
Mississippi	63	57%	35
Kansas	62	56%	38

Child Care Center Program Requirement Scores in Declining Order			
State	Program Score	Program Percent	Rank
Ohio	62	56%	38
Florida	61	55%	40
Missouri	61	55%	40
North Carolina	60	55%	42
Kentucky	59	54%	43
Montana	56	51%	44
Wyoming	53	48%	45
Alabama	51	46%	46
California	51	46%	46
South Carolina	48	44%	48
Arkansas	44	40%	49
Nebraska	32	29%	50
Louisiana	31	28%	51
Idaho	23	21%	52
Total Possible Score is 110			

The following table shows the program requirements score, percent of score and rankings for all the states in alphabetical order.

Child Care Center Program Requirement Scores in Alphabetical Order			
State	Program Score	Program Percent	Rank
Alabama	51	46%	46
Alaska	78	71%	16
Arizona	67	61%	30
Arkansas	44	40%	49
California	51	46%	46
Colorado	67	61%	30
Connecticut	77	70%	20
Delaware	85	77%	8
Department of Defense	95	86%	1
District of Columbia	82	75%	10
Florida	61	55%	40
Georgia	66	60%	33
Hawaii	63	57%	35
Idaho	23	21%	52
Illinois	82	75%	10
Indiana	82	75%	10
Iowa	63	57%	35
Kansas	62	56%	38
Kentucky	59	54%	43

Child Care Center Program Requirement Scores in Alphabetical Order

State	Program Score	Program Percent	Rank
Louisiana	31	28%	51
Maine	73	66%	23
Maryland	75	68%	21
Massachusetts	93	85%	2
Michigan	69	63%	26
Minnesota	86	78%	6
Mississippi	63	57%	35
Missouri	61	55%	40
Montana	56	51%	44
Nebraska	32	29%	50
Nevada	69	63%	26
New Hampshire	78	71%	16
New Jersey	90	82%	3
New Mexico	67	61%	32
New York	82	75%	10
North Carolina	60	55%	42
North Dakota	86	78%	6
Ohio	62	56%	38
Oklahoma	75	68%	21
Oregon	73	66%	23
Pennsylvania	79	72%	14
Rhode Island	87	79%	5
South Carolina	48	44%	48
South Dakota	65	59%	34
Tennessee	78	71%	16
Texas	79	72%	14
Utah	68	62%	28
Vermont	78	71%	16
Virginia	68	62%	28
Washington	83	75%	9
West Virginia	72	65%	25
Wisconsin	88	80%	4
Wyoming	53	48%	45
Total possible program score is 110			

Ranking of States for Oversight Benchmarks

Child Care Center Oversight Benchmarks

The following four oversight benchmarks were used to score the states

- **Oversight Benchmark 1:** Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.
- **Oversight Benchmark 2:** Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.
- **Oversight Benchmark 3:** Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.
- **Oversight Benchmark 4:** Inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.

The following table shows the oversight score, percent of score and rankings for all the states in rank order.

Child Care Center Oversight Scores in Declining Order			
State	Oversight Score	Percentage	Rank
Arkansas	38	95%	1
North Carolina	37	92%	2
Oklahoma	37	92%	2
Virginia	36	90%	4
Department of Defense	35	88%	5
Florida	34	85%	6
New York	34	85%	6
Texas	33	82%	8
Utah	33	82%	8
South Carolina	32	80%	10
Kansas	31	78%	11
Washington	31	78%	11
Georgia	30	75%	13
Montana	30	75%	13
Arizona	29	72%	15
Missouri	29	72%	15
New Mexico	28	70%	17
Ohio	28	70%	17
Tennessee	28	70%	17
South Dakota	27	68%	20
Illinois	26	65%	21
Kentucky	26	65%	21
Louisiana	26	65%	21
New Hampshire	26	65%	21

Child Care Center Oversight Scores in Declining Order			
State	Oversight Score	Percentage	Rank
North Dakota	26	65%	21
West Virginia	26	65%	26
Wyoming	26	65%	21
Delaware	23	58%	28
Indiana	23	58%	28
Maryland	23	58%	28
Michigan	23	58%	28
Nevada	23	58%	28
Wisconsin	22	55%	33
Colorado	21	52%	34
District of Columbia	21	52%	34
Hawaii	20	50%	36
Minnesota	20	50%	36
Mississippi	19	48%	38
Oregon	18	45%	39
Iowa	18	45%	39
Pennsylvania	17	42%	41
Alabama	16	40%	42
Nebraska	15	38%	43
Alaska	10	25%	44
Vermont	10	25%	44
New Jersey	9	22%	46
Rhode Island	7	18%	47
Connecticut	5	12%	48
Massachusetts	5	12%	48
Maine	3	8%	50
California	0	0%	51
Idaho	0	0%	51
Total Possible Oversight Score is 40 points.			

The following table shows the oversight score, percent of score and rankings for all the states in alphabetical order.

Child Care Center Oversight Scores in Alphabetical Order			
State	Oversight Score	Percentage	Rank
Alabama	16	40%	42
Alaska	10	25%	44
Arizona	29	72%	15
Arkansas	38	95%	1
California	0	0%	51
Colorado	21	52%	34
Connecticut	5	12%	48

Child Care Center Oversight Scores in Alphabetical Order

State	Oversight Score	Percentage	Rank
Delaware	23	58%	28
Department of Defense	35	88%	5
District of Columbia	21	52%	34
Florida	34	85%	6
Georgia	30	75%	13
Hawaii	20	50%	36
Idaho	0	0%	51
Illinois	26	65%	21
Indiana	23	58%	28
Iowa	18	45%	39
Kansas	31	78%	11
Kentucky	26	65%	21
Louisiana	26	65%	21
Maine	3	8%	50
Maryland	23	58%	28
Massachusetts	5	12%	48
Michigan	23	58%	28
Minnesota	20	50%	36
Mississippi	19	48%	38
Missouri	29	72%	15
Montana	30	75%	13
Nebraska	15	38%	43
Nevada	23	58%	28
New Hampshire	26	65%	21
New Jersey	9	22%	46
New Mexico	28	70%	17
New York	34	85%	6
North Carolina	37	92%	2
North Dakota	26	65%	21
Ohio	28	70%	17
Oklahoma	37	92%	2
Oregon	18	45%	39
Pennsylvania	17	42%	41
Rhode Island	7	18%	47
South Carolina	32	80%	10
South Dakota	27	68%	20
Tennessee	28	70%	17
Texas	33	82%	8
Utah	33	82%	8

Child Care Center Oversight Scores in Alphabetical Order

State	Oversight Score	Percentage	Rank
Vermont	10	25%	44
Virginia	36	90%	4
Washington	31	78%	11
West Virginia	26	65%	26
Wisconsin	22	55%	33
Wyoming	26	65%	21
Total Possible Score is 40 Points			



Conclusion and Recommendations

Parents, child care providers and state and federal policymakers share responsibility for the safety and well-being of children while they are in child care settings.

Basic state requirements as well as oversight form the foundation necessary to protect children and promote their healthy development while in child care. The benchmarks selected by Child Care Aware® of America represent basic, minimal criteria. The average score is only 92 points out of a possible score of 150, which equates to 61 percent – a grade of D.

As this report shows, state licensing requirements vary greatly, and few really set policies to ensure that children are safe and in a setting to promote their healthy development.

Child Care Licensing Requirements

Child care licensing should provide minimum protections for children. *At a minimum, child care should do no harm.*

While child care is a work support for millions of parents with young children, with what research shows about brain development, it is also an early learning program. Given that children spend an average of 35 hours per week in child care, it is critical that child care settings promote both safety and healthy development.

There is considerable variation among states in what they include in their child care center licensing requirements. These requirements generally include minimum staff:child ratios and group size,

educational qualifications and training requirements for directors and lead teachers, background checks for center staff, parent involvement as well as monitoring frequency.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) recommends staff:child ratios that are based on best practice for effective interaction and supervision. Only one state (*the District of Columbia*) meets all seven staff:child ratio recommendations for varying ages of young children. Twenty-three states meet two or fewer of the staff:child ratio recommendations (of these, 13 states meet none).

With regard to NAEYC group size limit recommendations for effective staff:child interaction and supervision, no state meets all of the group size limits by age. In fact, 33 states plus *DoD* meet two or fewer standards with regard to group size limits, and 22 of these states meet none.

While there are a variety of factors that affect a child care setting, one of the most important to the quality of care and interaction with children is the training of individuals in the child care workforce.

Put simply, training makes a difference in the quality of care. Quality child care matters for the safety and development of children. Yet, training requirements vary greatly among the states ranging from no training requirements to comprehensive requirements.

Training of the workforce, child:staff ratios and group size limits are all related to the safety and healthy development of children.

The array of benchmarks Child Care Aware® of America selected are key to quality settings.

Program and Oversight Policies Matter

Program *and* oversight benchmarks were selected because licensing requirements are ineffective unless there are oversight systems in place to ensure that the program requirements are carried out.

Weak oversight undermines strong standards since compliance is not effectively monitored. As this report shows, state oversight varies greatly.

Two states (*New York* and *Washington*) plus *DoD* scored high on both program requirements and oversight.

Three states (*Massachusetts*, *New Jersey* and *Rhode Island*) that are on the top 10 list for best program requirements are among the 10 lowest scoring states with regard to oversight.

Two states (*Arkansas* and *South Carolina*) are on the top 10 list for oversight and among the top 10 lowest scoring states for program requirements.

Three states (*California*, *Idaho* and *Nebraska*) are on both lists of the worst 10 states with regard to program requirements and oversight.

Monitoring Effectiveness

Given the state of the economy, many states faced tough budget deficit gaps to close over the last few years. **Compared to our 2011 report, 19 states increased the number of programs covered by licensing office staff.** With the important role effective monitoring plays in promoting child safety and program compliance with licensing, the number of programs that each licensing staff covers needs to be reduced not increased. Since there was not a significant increase in licensed programs, it is likely that staff caseloads increased either through attrition with no replacement or licensing staff budget cuts. The states with the largest percent increase in caseload per licensing office staff were:

- *Oregon* – 80 percent.
- *Kentucky* – 63 percent.

- *New York* – 49 percent.
- *Nevada* – 44 percent.
- *Connecticut* – 24 percent.

Connecting State Licensing to Quality Rating Systems

It is critical that states integrate child care licensing with their state quality rating systems. Yet, only five states (*Michigan*, *New Mexico*, *North Carolina*, *Oklahoma* and *Tennessee*) require licensed programs to participate in their QRIS.

By integrating child care licensing with the state's quality rating system and by requiring accountability for the use of subsidies for low income children to higher quality care (rated as 3, 4 or 5 stars), *North Carolina* has significantly improved the quality of child care available for **all** children (reducing the number of programs rated as 1 or 2 stars from 1,922 in 2011 to about 1,000 in 2013 through a concentrated effort to work with lower quality programs to raise their quality level to 3 stars or higher). As a result, very few programs in *North Carolina* remain at the licensed level – the lowest quality of care allowed by the state.

The Role of State and Federal Policymakers

State licensing varies greatly, in large part, because Congress has not set accountable parameters for states to follow as they spend federal and state money on child care. The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG):

- Does **not** require a background check for child care providers to screen out those who should not be in the business of caring for children.
- Does **not** contain a minimum training requirement for child care providers.
- Does **not** require regular inspections to ensure that child care programs are in compliance with state licensing requirements.

- Does **not** require minimum protections for children so that they are safe and in quality child care settings.

In June of 2011, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee held a hearing entitled, "Getting the Most Bang for the Buck: Quality Early Education and Care." The hearing focused on a comparison of the Military Child Care Act (MCCA) and CCDBG. Unlike CCDBG where funding flows through HHS to states to assist children with any type of child care (licensed or not, poor quality or not, where providers are not screened or trained and inspections are infrequent), the MCCA requires provider background checks, minimum training, quarterly inspections and children to be in quality settings.

In this year's report, *DoD* child care centers ranked first. It is time for Congress to set parameters for the states through CCDBG that parallel the MCCA. It is good news that the children of military families are in quality child care. It would be great news if the rest of the children in America could also be in quality child care. However, as this report shows, more progress needs to be made.

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends Congress:

Reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) in the 113th Congress and appropriate sufficient funding to ensure that eligible children are able to receive assistance and that states can meet quality improvement goals.

Protect children's safety

- Require comprehensive background checks for licensed child care providers who regularly care for unrelated children and for unlicensed individuals who receive federal funds to care for children.
- Require minimum health and safety protections for children (including safe sleep practices for infants) for receipt of federal subsidies.

- Require states to share with Child Care Resource and Referral agencies in a timely manner information about license revocations and suspensions and other information that will help parents select safe, quality child care for their children.
- Require states to include child care in disaster planning, response and recovery efforts.
- Include a specific set-aside for licensing related activities to promote the safety and healthy development of children.
- Require licensed child care programs to disclose to parents whether they carry liability insurance.

Promote accountability

- Require regular unannounced inspections of licensed programs (the same standard Congress required of the military child care system) and require inspection reports to be posted on the internet to assist parents in making informed child care choices.
- Require a child care community needs assessment as part of the CCDBG state plan, which includes the availability of licensed care by setting, by age, and by hours of operation, and compare such data to the needs of working parents in the community for such types of child care.
- Require deaths in child care programs to be reported to the state licensing agency and the state child care administrator and for those agencies to aggregate the data and report it to the Department of Health and Human Services to identify trends and recommend policies to prevent such tragedies where possible.
- Require states accepting federal funds for child care to provide an evidence-based rationale for each category of license-exempt care and to disclose such information on the Internet.
- Include a specific set-aside for licensing-related activities to promote the safety and healthy development of children, including safe sleep practices for infants.

- Require the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to review state Child Care and Development Fund biennial plans and impose penalties when state plans fail to meet minimum protections for children, including ineffective state monitoring practices.

Promote quality child care

- Establish quality child care as a goal for any use of related federal funding (*i.e., funds used for child care through CCDBG, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF] program, and the Social Services Block Grant [SSBG]*).
- Set clear expectations about what quality means and establish a floor for what is minimally acceptable.
- Require all paid individuals in the child care workforce (who care for unrelated children on a regular basis) to complete 40 hours of initial training in child development and behavior guidance, learning activities, first aid/CPR, recognizing and reporting child abuse, and basic health and safety practices as well as 24 hours of annual training.
- Require community-based training that is intentional, sequential, competency-based, tied with coaching and tied to outcomes.
- Encourage states to expand online training opportunities, training to better address children with special needs and training in working with children whose first language is not English.
- Expand training in other languages where a community needs assessment shows the need for languages other than English to better meet the needs of a diverse array of providers.
- Require CCDBG quality funds to be linked to measurable program outcomes, especially training and preparation of the workforce.
- Require states to encourage healthy development in child care by promoting nutritious meals and snacks, offering daily physical activity, and limiting screen time

- Require states to create or strengthen Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) to tier provider payment rates based on objective quality measures and to ensure that low-income children have access to high quality care.
- Authorize funds for pilots in high poverty rural communities to explore strategies that braid multiple funding sources to better meet the child care needs of working parents (meeting the criteria of the strongest funding stream to ensure safe, quality care for children).
- Increase the CCDBG quality set-aside immediately to 12 percent of the basic block grant, moving it to 25 percent, on par with Head Start.

Child Care Aware® of America Recommends States:

Strengthen state program requirements and oversight.

Protect children's safety

- Require comprehensive background checks for child care providers and those receiving subsidies to care for unrelated children.
- Require all child care center teachers to keep current certification in first aid and CPR.
- Require child care centers to follow the 10 recommended basic health practices and the 10 recommended basic safety practices.
- Require all child care centers to be licensed.
- Inspect child care programs regularly and post inspection reports on the Internet.
- Share suspension and violation information with CCR&Rs so that agencies do not make referrals to programs that may not be safe.
- Require deaths in child care programs to be reported to the state licensing agency.

Promote accountability

- Conduct regular inspections to ensure compliance with state requirements. At least some of these inspections should be unannounced.
- Post routine inspection reports and substantiated complaints on the Internet.
- Ensure adequate oversight by reducing licensing staff caseloads to a ratio of no more than 50:1 to improve accountability for meeting state requirements.

Promote quality child care

- Require child care center directors to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.
- Require lead teachers to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.
- Require child care centers to provide an orientation and initial training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
- Require child care center staff to have 24 hours or more of annual training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
- Require community-based training that is intentional, sequential, competency-based, tied with coaching and tied to outcomes.
- Create and expand more online training opportunities, training to better address children with special needs and training in working with children whose first language is not English.

- Expand training in other languages where a community needs assessment shows the need for languages other than English to better meet the needs of a diverse array of providers.
- Require child care centers to plan learning activities that address language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive development/ math, self-help skills, creative activities, limited screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
- Require child care centers to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and share written policies with parents.
- Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.



Appendix A

Child Care Center Requirements and Oversight in Individual States and The Department of Defense



2013 State of Child Care Centers in Alabama

Total Score: 67/150	Total Percentage: 45%	Overall Rank: 48
Oversight Score: 16/40	Oversight Percentage: 40%	Oversight Rank: 42
Program Standards Score: 51/110	Standards Percentage: 46%	Program Standards Rank: 46

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$5,356
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$5,668



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Alabama

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address fire drills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Directors are required to have less than a CDA credential. ■ Providers are only required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Programs are only required to address two of the specified domain activities. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Licensing inspections of child care centers are conducted once every two years. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Require the director to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require providers to offer activities addressing all developmental domains. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups. ■ Increase licensing inspections of child care centers to at least once a year. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Alaska

Total Score: 88/150	Total Percentage: 59%	Overall Rank: 35
Oversight Score: 10/40	Oversight Percentage: 25%	Oversight Rank: 44
Program Standards Score: 78/110	Standards Percentage: 71%	Program Standards Rank: 20



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$9,336
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$8,856

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	●
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	◐
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	○
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	●
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	◐
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	●

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	●
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	●
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	◐
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	◐
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	◐

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	○
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	●
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	○
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	○

Key ● Fully Meets ◐ Substantially Meets ◑ Partially Meets ◒ Marginally Meets ○ Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Alaska

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and federal criminal records and checks of child abuse and neglect registry and sex offender registry. ■ Providers are required to offer activities addressing all developmental domains. ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 50 programs or fewer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for five age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for six age groups. ■ Licensing inspections of child care centers are required once every two years. ■ Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups. ■ Increase licensing inspections of child care centers to at least once a year. ■ Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

State Note: By regulation, Alaska inspects facilities once every two years; however, Alaska has an internal practice of conducting at least one announced and one unannounced inspection per facility per year. We recommend this practice be required by regulation or policy.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Arizona

Total Score: 96/150	Total Percentage: 64%	Overall Rank: 22
Oversight Score: 29/40	Oversight Percentage: 72%	Oversight Rank: 15
Program Standards Score: 67/110	Standards Percentage: 61%	Program Standards Rank: 30



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$8,946
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$7,263

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Arizona

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to offer activities addressing all developmental domains. ■ Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address universal health precautions. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Directors are required to have less than a CDA credential. ■ Providers are only required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Require the director to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups.

State Note: Arizona will begin to do background checks of the child abuse registry as of August 2013.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Arkansas

Total Score: 82/150	Total Percentage: 55%	Overall Rank: 41
Oversight Score: 38/40	Oversight Percentage: 95%	Oversight Rank: 1
Program Standards Score: 44/110	Standards Percentage: 40%	Program Standards Rank: 49

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$5,437
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$4,695



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Arkansas

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address universal health precautions. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ All centers have licensing inspections three times per year as well as health, safety or fire inspections twice a year. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints. ■ Directors are required to have less than a CDA credential. ■ Providers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Programs are only required to address three of the specified domain activities. ■ Centers are not required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents or share written policies. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Require the director to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require providers to offer activities addressing all developmental domains. ■ Require centers to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in California

Total Score: 51/150	Total Percentage: 34%	Overall Rank: 50
Oversight Score: 0/40	Oversight Percentage: 0%	Oversight Rank: 51
Program Standards Score: 51/110	Standards Percentage: 46%	Program Standards Rank: 46

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$11,823*
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$8,237*



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in California

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address weekend/evening care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Providers are only required to have initial training on three of the specific topics. ■ Providers are not required to complete any annual training. ■ Programs are only required to address two of the specified domain activities. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for six age groups. ■ Licensing inspections of child care centers are conducted no less than once every five years. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 169 programs. ■ Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Require providers to have comprehensive initial training. ■ Require providers to complete 24 hours or more of annual training. ■ Require providers to offer activities addressing all developmental domains. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Increase licensing inspections of child care centers to at least once a year. ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors. ■ Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

State Note: In California, a check of the sex offender registry is conducted, but it is not required in regulations or in policy. We recommend it be required by regulation or policy.

*Annual child care center costs used 2009 data, adjusted for inflation

Notes:

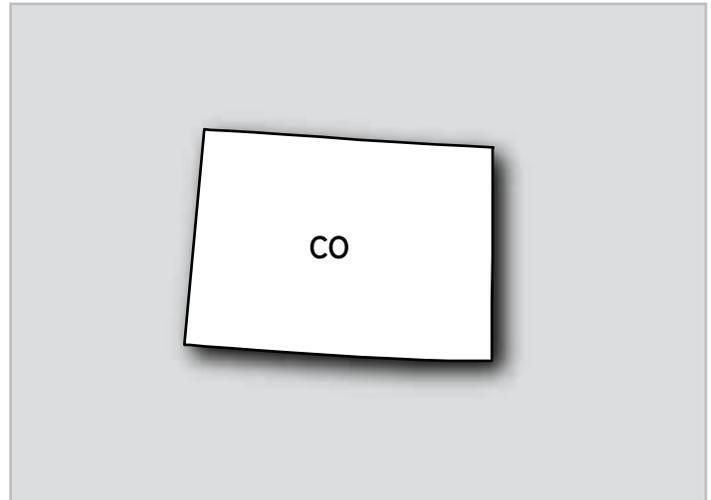
1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Colorado

Total Score: 88/150	Total Percentage: 59%	Overall Rank: 35
Oversight Score: 21/40	Oversight Percentage: 52%	Oversight Rank: 34
Program Standards Score: 67/110	Standards Percentage: 61%	Program Standards Rank: 30

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$12,621
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$9,239



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Colorado

Strengths

- Providers are required to undergo a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and federal criminal records and checks of child abuse and neglect registry and sex offender registry.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.

Weaknesses

- Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups.
- Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups.
- Licensing inspections of child care centers are conducted once every two years.
- Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 140 programs.

Recommendations

- Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups.
- Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups.
- Increase licensing inspections of child care centers to at least once a year.
- Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.

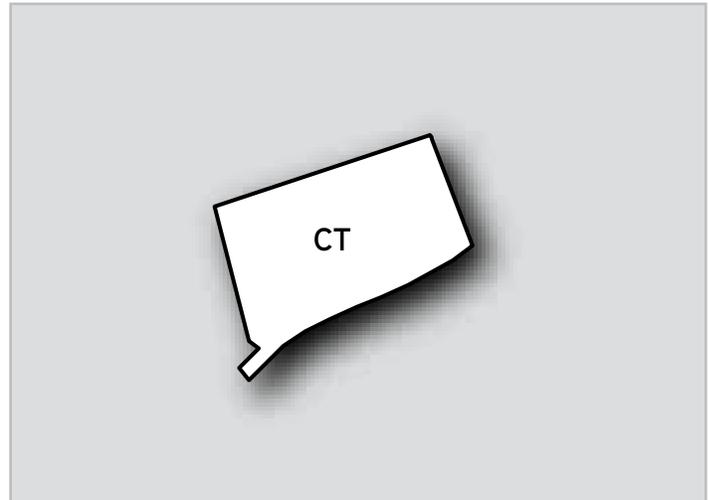
Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Connecticut

Total Score: 82/150	Total Percentage: 55%	Overall Rank: 42
Oversight Score: 5/40	Oversight Percentage: 12%	Oversight Rank: 48
Program Standards Score: 77/110	Standards Percentage: 70%	Program Standards Rank: 20



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$12,844
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$10,530

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Connecticut

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lead teachers are required to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Providers are required to complete 24 hours or more of annual training. ■ Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address universal health precautions. ■ Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address transportation head counts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Directors are required to have less than a CDA credential. ■ Providers are only required to have initial training on one of the specific topics. ■ Licensing inspections of child care centers are conducted once every two years. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 217 programs. ■ Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree. ■ Inspection reports are not available online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Require the director to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. ■ Require providers to have comprehensive initial training. ■ Increase licensing inspections of child care centers to at least once a year. ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors. ■ Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

Notes:

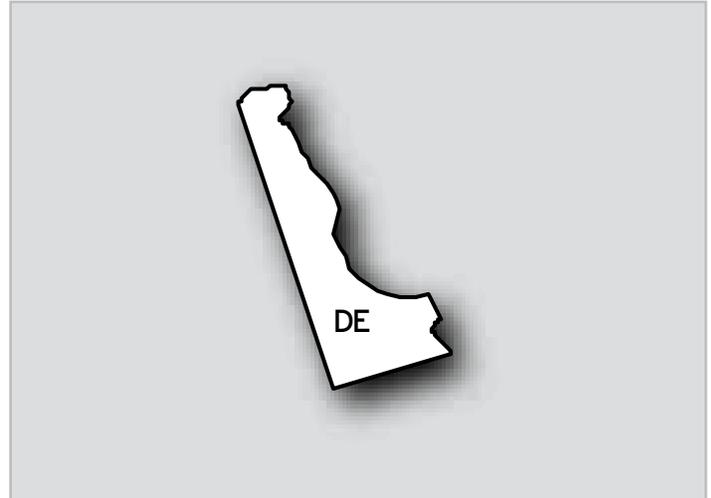
1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Delaware

Total Score: 108/150	Total Percentage: 72%	Overall Rank: 8
Oversight Score: 23/40	Oversight Percentage: 58%	Oversight Rank: 28
Program Standards Score: 85/110	Standards Percentage: 77%	Program Standards Rank: 8

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$9,620
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$7,592



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Delaware

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to offer activities addressing all developmental domains. ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for five age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for six age groups. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 150 programs.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups. ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Department Of Defense

Total Score: 130/150	Total Percentage: 87%	Overall Rank: 1
Oversight Score: 35/40	Oversight Percentage: 88%	Oversight Rank: 5
Program Standards Score: 95/110	Standards Percentage: 86%	Program Standards Rank: 1



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$ *see State Notes
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$ *see State Notes

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Department Of Defense

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or related field. ■ Lead teachers are required to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Providers are required to complete 24 hours or more of annual training. ■ Providers are required to offer activities addressing all developmental domains. ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address transportation head counts. ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ All centers have licensing inspections twice a year as well as health, safety or fire inspections twice a year. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 50 programs or fewer. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for five age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for six age groups. ■ Complaint reports are not available online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

State Note: DoD does not license programs, but operates a system of child care programs on its military installations. These programs are required to follow program regulations and oversight established in DoD Instructions and regulations developed by each military service branch.

A draft of the revised DoD Instruction for Child Development Programs is under final legal review in preparation for posting in the Federal Register sometime in 2013.

*For DoD, the cost of child care is based on family income.

Notes:

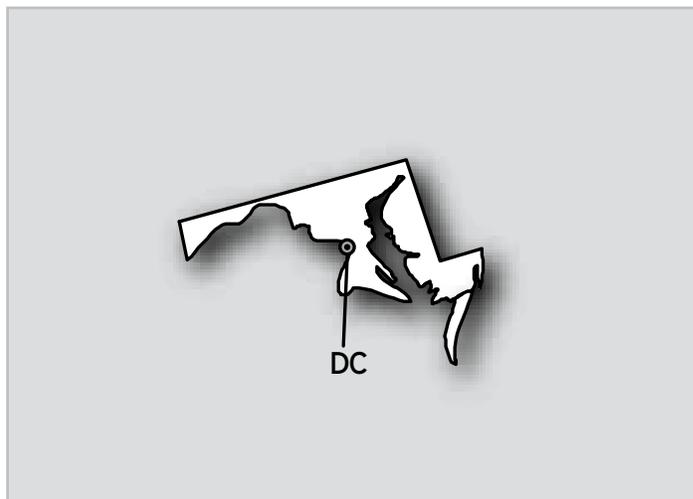
1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in District Of Columbia

Total Score: 103/150	Total Percentage: 69%	Overall Rank: 15
Oversight Score: 21/40	Oversight Percentage: 52%	Oversight Rank: 34
Program Standards Score: 82/110	Standards Percentage: 75%	Program Standards Rank: 10

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$20,178*
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$15,437*



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in District Of Columbia

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address universal health precautions. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Providers are only required to have initial training on four of the specific topics. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

*Annual child care center costs used 2010 data, adjusted for inflation.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Florida

Total Score: 95/150	Total Percentage: 63%	Overall Rank: 25
Oversight Score: 34/40	Oversight Percentage: 85%	Oversight Rank: 6
Program Standards Score: 61/110	Standards Percentage: 55%	Program Standards Rank: 40

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$8,009
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$6,368



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Florida

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address universal health precautions. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ All centers have licensing inspections three times per year as well as health, safety or fire inspections twice a year. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks do not require a check of either the sex offender registry or the child abuse registry. ■ Providers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Providers are required to complete only 10 hours of annual training. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for six age groups.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender and child abuse registries. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require providers to complete 24 hours or more of annual training. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups.

State Note: Florida completes a child abuse registry check for all owners, operators and directors, but not on employees. A sex offender registry check is conducted by address.

Florida does not have a "Lead Teacher" designation. For every 20 children, one staff must have the equivalent of a CDA credential. This staff person may be the director and does not have to be in the classroom.

In Florida, child care personnel have one year to complete 40 hours of initial training and pass a competency test.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Georgia

Total Score: 96/150	Total Percentage: 64%	Overall Rank: 22
Oversight Score: 30/40	Oversight Percentage: 75%	Oversight Rank: 13
Program Standards Score: 66/110	Standards Percentage: 60%	Program Standards Rank: 33



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$7,030
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$6,062

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Georgia

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lead teachers are required to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address firearms controls. ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks do not require a check of the child abuse registry. ■ Providers are required to complete only 10 hours of annual training. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 120 programs.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender and child abuse registries. ■ Require providers to complete 24 hours or more of annual training. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups. ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.

State Note: Florida completes a child abuse registry check for all owners, operators and directors, but not on employees. A sex offender registry check is conducted by address.

Florida does not have a "Lead Teacher" designation. For every 20 children, one staff must have the equivalent of a CDA credential. This staff person may be the director and does not have to be in the classroom.

In Florida, child care personnel have one year to complete 40 hours of initial training and pass a competency test.

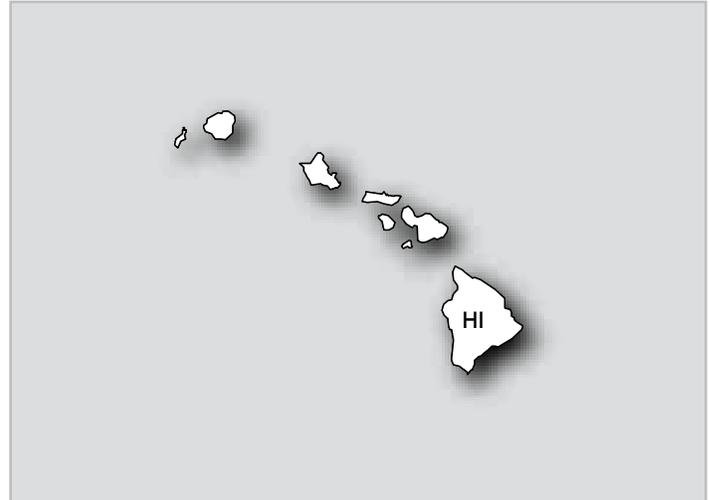
Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Hawaii

Total Score: 83/150	Total Percentage: 55%	Overall Rank: 40
Oversight Score: 20/40	Oversight Percentage: 50%	Oversight Rank: 36
Program Standards Score: 63/110	Standards Percentage: 57%	Program Standards Rank: 35



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$12,876
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$7,752

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Hawaii

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and federal criminal records and checks of child abuse and neglect registry and sex offender registry. ■ Lead teachers are required to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address incident reporting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are not required to have initial training any of the specific topics. ■ Providers are not required to complete any annual training. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for five age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for six age groups. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require providers to have comprehensive initial training. ■ Require providers to complete 24 hours or more of annual training. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

State Note: In Hawaii, directors in Infant/toddler centers have to have two years college with 30 hours in early childhood education. Hawaii conducts licensing visits two times per year for providers/programs that are on a two-year license and once a year for providers/programs that are on a one-year license.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Idaho

Total Score: 23/150	Total Percentage: 15%	Overall Rank: 52
Oversight Score: 0/40	Oversight Percentage: 0%	Oversight Rank: 51
Program Standards Score: 23/110	Standards Percentage: 21%	Program Standards Rank: 52

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$5,834
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$5,059



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	●
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	○
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	○
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	○
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	○
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	○

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	◐
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited. *	○
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	◐
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	○
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	○

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	○
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	○
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	○
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	○

Key ● Fully Meets ◐ Substantially Meets ◑ Partially Meets ◒ Marginally Meets ○ Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Idaho

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and federal criminal records and checks of child abuse and neglect registry and sex offender registry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Directors are required to have less than a CDA credential. ■ Providers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Providers are only required to have initial training on two of the specific topics. ■ Providers are required to complete only four hours of annual training. ■ Programs are not required provide activities in any developmental domains. ■ Centers are not required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents or share written policies. ■ Requirements do not prohibit corporal punishment. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Licensing inspections of centers are not required ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 1000 programs. ■ Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.
Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the director to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require providers to have comprehensive initial training. ■ Require providers to complete 24 hours or more of annual training. ■ Require providers to offer activities addressing all developmental domains. ■ Require centers to prohibit corporal punishment. ■ Require centers to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups. ■ Increase licensing inspections of child care centers to at least once a year. ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors. ■ Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online. 	

State Note: In Idaho, the two state licensing staff do not do licensing inspections. Local contractors handle licensing documentation along with other responsibilities.

*Idaho scored zero on the safety standard because it does not prohibit corporal punishment.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

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2013 State of Child Care Centers in Illinois

Total Score: 108/150	Total Percentage: 72%	Overall Rank: 8
Oversight Score: 26/40	Oversight Percentage: 65%	Oversight Rank: 21
Program Standards Score: 82/110	Standards Percentage: 75%	Program Standards Rank: 10



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$12,199
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$8,996

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Illinois

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and federal criminal records and checks of child abuse and neglect registry and sex offender registry. ■ Lead teachers are required to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Providers are required to offer activities addressing all developmental domains. ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address firearms controls. ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for five age groups. ■ Complaint reports are not available online.
Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online. 	

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Indiana

Total Score: 105/150	Total Percentage: 70%	Overall Rank: 12
Oversight Score: 23/40	Oversight Percentage: 58%	Oversight Rank: 28
Program Standards Score: 82/110	Standards Percentage: 75%	Program Standards Rank: 10

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$9,880
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$7,975



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Indiana

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints. ■ Providers are only required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.

State Note: In Indiana, a FBI check is required for the child care program applicant, but not for employees.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Iowa

Total Score: 81/150	Total Percentage: 54%	Overall Rank: 44
Oversight Score: 18/40	Oversight Percentage: 45%	Oversight Rank: 39
Program Standards Score: 63/110	Standards Percentage: 57%	Program Standards Rank: 35



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$8,588*
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$7,320*

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Iowa

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without a state fingerprint check. ■ Directors are required to have less than a CDA credential. ■ Providers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Providers are required to complete only 10 hours of annual training. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 123 programs. ■ Complaint reports are not available online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Require the director to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require providers to complete 24 hours or more of annual training. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

*Annual child care center costs used 2010 data, adjusted for inflation.

Notes:

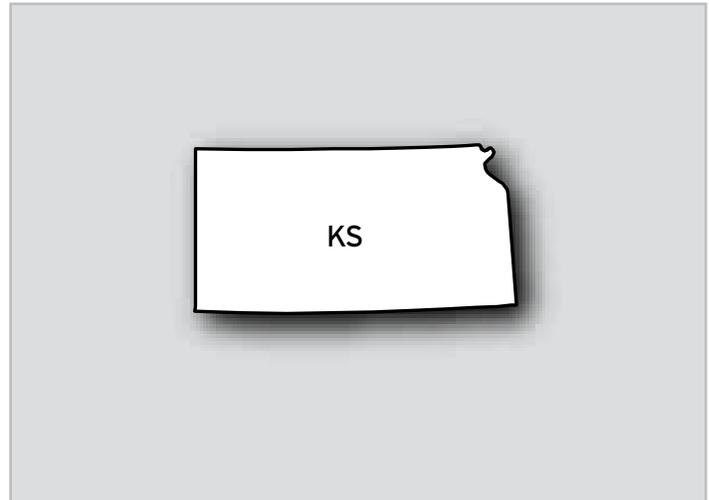
1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Kansas

Total Score: 93/150	Total Percentage: 62%	Overall Rank: 28
Oversight Score: 31/40	Oversight Percentage: 78%	Oversight Rank: 11
Program Standards Score: 62/110	Standards Percentage: 56%	Program Standards Rank: 38

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$11,023
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$8,305



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Kansas

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to have comprehensive initial training, including training in 12 specific topics. ■ Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address universal health precautions. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints. ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Providers are only required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Providers are required to complete only 10 hours of annual training. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for six age groups.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require providers to complete 24 hours or more of annual training. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups.

State Note: In Kansas, requirements for fire safety inspections are in accordance with local codes and rules and regulations of the state fire marshal.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Kentucky

Total Score: 85/150	Total Percentage: 57%	Overall Rank: 39
Oversight Score: 26/40	Oversight Percentage: 65%	Oversight Rank: 21
Program Standards Score: 59/110	Standards Percentage: 54%	Program Standards Rank: 43



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$6,594
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$5,766

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Kentucky

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to offer activities addressing all developmental domains. ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints. ■ Directors are required to have less than a CDA credential. ■ Providers are only required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Require the director to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Louisiana

Total Score: 57/150	Total Percentage: 38%	Overall Rank: 49
Oversight Score: 26/40	Oversight Percentage: 65%	Oversight Rank: 21
Program Standards Score: 31/110	Standards Percentage: 28%	Program Standards Rank: 51

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$5,901*
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$5,364*



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited. **	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Louisiana

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Orientation is required. Six of the initial training topics must be addressed. ■ Centers are required to follow nine of the 10 health requirements. ■ Licensing staff are required to have a bachelor's degree. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints. ■ Background checks do not require a check of either the sex offender registry or the child abuse registry. ■ Directors are required to have less than a CDA credential. ■ Providers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Programs are only required to address two of the specified domain activities. ■ Requirements do not prohibit corporal punishment. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Complaint reports are not available online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender and child abuse registries. ■ Require the director to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require providers to offer activities addressing all developmental domains. ■ Require centers to prohibit corporal punishment. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

State Note: Louisiana has two types of child care regulations - Class "A" and Class "B." Class "B" regulations were coded for this report. Class "A" programs are eligible to receive state and federal funding and have stricter regulations.

*Annual child care center costs used 2010 data, adjusted for inflation

**Louisiana scored zero on the safety standard because it does not prohibit corporal punishment.

Notes:

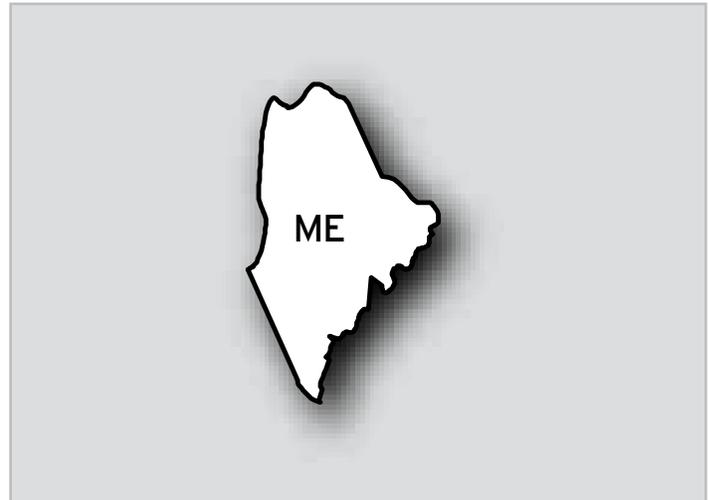
1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Maine

Total Score: 76/150	Total Percentage: 51%	Overall Rank: 47
Oversight Score: 3/40	Oversight Percentage: 8%	Oversight Rank: 50
Program Standards Score: 73/110	Standards Percentage: 66%	Program Standards Rank: 23

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$9,256
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$7,904



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Maine

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to complete 24 hours or more of annual training. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints. ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Providers are only required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 179 programs. ■ Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors. ■ Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Maryland

Total Score: 98/150	Total Percentage: 65%	Overall Rank: 18
Oversight Score: 23/40	Oversight Percentage: 58%	Oversight Rank: 28
Program Standards Score: 75/110	Standards Percentage: 68%	Program Standards Rank: 21



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$12,878
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$9,278

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Maryland

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Directors are required to have less than a CDA credential. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 115 programs. ■ Complaint reports are not available online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Require the director to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

State Note: In Maryland, a check of the sex offender registry is done, but is not required in regulation. We recommend this practice be required by policy or regulation.

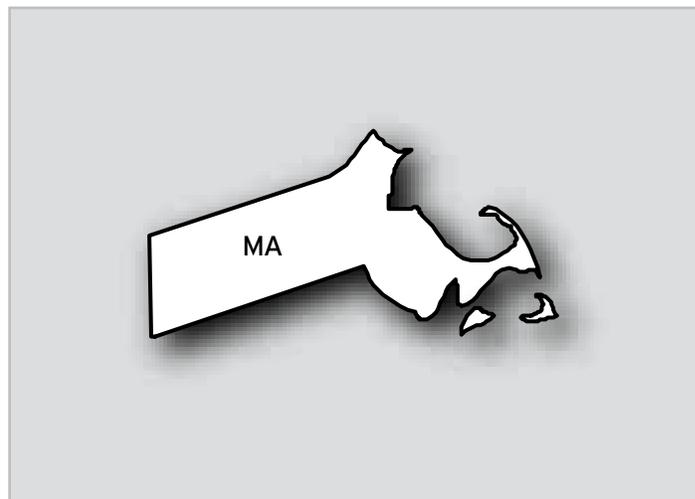
Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Massachusetts

Total Score: 98/150	Total Percentage: 65%	Overall Rank: 18
Oversight Score: 5/40	Oversight Percentage: 12%	Oversight Rank: 48
Program Standards Score: 93/110	Standards Percentage: 85%	Program Standards Rank: 2



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$14,980
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$11,669

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Massachusetts

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without a state fingerprint check. ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Licensing inspections of child care centers are conducted once every two years. ■ Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Increase licensing inspections of child care centers to at least once a year. ■ Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

State Note: In Massachusetts, legislation was passed in January 2013, requiring FBI fingerprint checks on all employees, effective September 1, 2013. Although the Massachusetts does not conduct a check of the Massachusetts Sex Offender data base, the Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry law requires that for level 2 and level 3 sex offenders the local police departments are required to notify all schools and child care centers in the town in which the sex offender resides and works.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Michigan

Total Score: 92/150	Total Percentage: 61%	Overall Rank: 29
Oversight Score: 23/40	Oversight Percentage: 58%	Oversight Rank: 28
Program Standards Score: 69/110	Standards Percentage: 63%	Program Standards Rank: 26



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$10,114
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$7,930

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Michigan

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints. ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for six age groups. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 159 programs.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.

State Note: In Michigan, the sex offender check is completed on the address, not the individual.

In Michigan, fire inspections are once every four years, and health inspections are once every two years.

In Michigan, child care licensing staff are required to have a master's degree in early childhood education or related field.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Minnesota

Total Score: 106/150	Total Percentage: 71%	Overall Rank: 10
Oversight Score: 20/40	Oversight Percentage: 50%	Oversight Rank: 36
Program Standards Score: 86/110	Standards Percentage: 78%	Program Standards Rank: 6

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$13,579
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$10,470



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Minnesota

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lead teachers are required to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Providers are required to complete 24 hours or more of annual training. ■ Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address universal health precautions. ■ Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address outdoor play surfaces. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints. ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Licensing inspections of child care centers are conducted once every two years. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 194 programs.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Increase licensing inspections of child care centers to at least once a year. ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Mississippi

Total Score: 82/150	Total Percentage: 55%	Overall Rank: 43
Oversight Score: 19/40	Oversight Percentage: 48%	Oversight Rank: 38
Program Standards Score: 63/110	Standards Percentage: 57%	Program Standards Rank: 35

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$4,591
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$3,911



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Mississippi

Strengths

- Providers are required to undergo a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and federal criminal records and checks of child abuse and neglect registry and sex offender registry.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address transportation head counts.

Weaknesses

- Providers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED.
- Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups.
- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.

Recommendations

- Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups.
- Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Missouri

Total Score: 90/150	Total Percentage: 60%	Overall Rank: 33
Oversight Score: 29/40	Oversight Percentage: 72%	Oversight Rank: 15
Program Standards Score: 61/110	Standards Percentage: 55%	Program Standards Rank: 40

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$8,580
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$5,928



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Missouri

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address universal health precautions. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ All centers have licensing inspections twice a year as well as health, safety or fire inspections twice a year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints. ■ Providers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Providers are only required to have initial training on four of the specific topics. ■ Programs are only required to address three of the specified domain activities. ■ Complaint reports are not available online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require providers to have comprehensive initial training. ■ Require providers to offer activities addressing all developmental domains. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

State Note: In Missouri, minimum education for directors was coded for directors in centers for 21-60 children. Additional education is required for directors in centers with 61-99 children and for centers with 100 or more children.

In Missouri, minimum education for lead teachers is based on general staff requirements. Missouri does not have a lead teacher designation.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Montana

Total Score: 86/150	Total Percentage: 57%	Overall Rank: 38
Oversight Score: 30/40	Oversight Percentage: 75%	Oversight Rank: 13
Program Standards Score: 56/110	Standards Percentage: 51%	Program Standards Rank: 44



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$8,307
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$7,285

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Montana

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address universal health precautions. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints. ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Directors are required to have less than a CDA credential. ■ Providers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Providers are only required to have initial training on three of the specific topics. ■ Providers are required to complete only eight hours of annual training. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Licensing inspections of child care centers are conducted once every three years.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Require the director to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require providers to have comprehensive initial training. ■ Require providers to complete 24 hours or more of annual training. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Increase licensing inspections of child care centers to at least once a year.

State Note: In Montana, a FBI check and a fingerprint check of state criminal records is required for candidates who have lived in Montana for less than five years.

In Montana, the number of inspections depends on the licensing type. Montana offers 1, 2, and 3 year licenses depending on whether the facility meets the criteria for that licensing type. Programs with no violations have extended registration up to three years. Programs with violations receive a regular one year license. During the period of October 1, 2011-September 30, 2012, 69 percent of centers received a monitoring visit.

Notes:

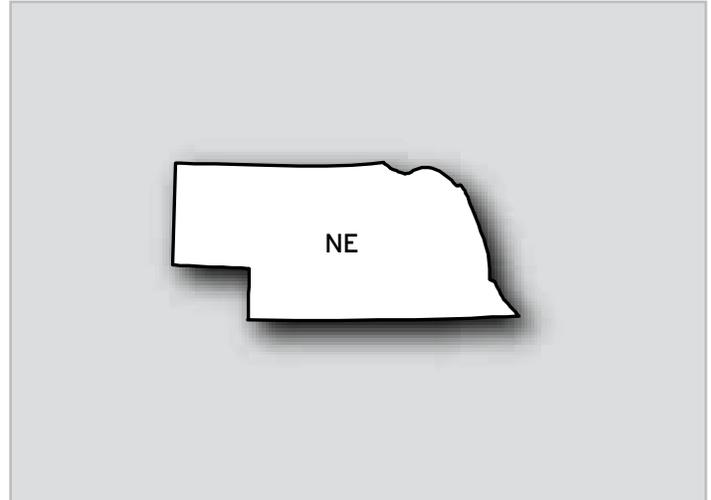
1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Nebraska

Total Score: 47/150	Total Percentage: 31%	Overall Rank: 51
Oversight Score: 15/40	Oversight Percentage: 38%	Oversight Rank: 43
Program Standards Score: 32/110	Standards Percentage: 29%	Program Standards Rank: 50

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$7,639
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$6,386



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	<input type="radio"/>
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	<input type="radio"/>
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	<input type="radio"/>
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	<input type="radio"/>
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	<input type="radio"/>

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	<input type="radio"/>
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	<input type="radio"/>
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	<input type="radio"/>
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	<input type="radio"/>
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	<input type="radio"/>

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	<input type="radio"/>
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	<input type="radio"/>
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	<input type="radio"/>

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Nebraska

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are not required to undergo a background check. ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Directors are required to have less than a CDA credential. ■ Providers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Providers are only required to have initial training on two of the specific topics. ■ Programs are only required to address one of the specified domain activities. ■ Centers are not required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents or share written policies. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 180 programs. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require providers to undergo a criminal background check based on fingerprints. ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Require the director to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require providers to have comprehensive initial training. ■ Require providers to offer activities addressing all developmental domains. ■ Require centers to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

Notes:

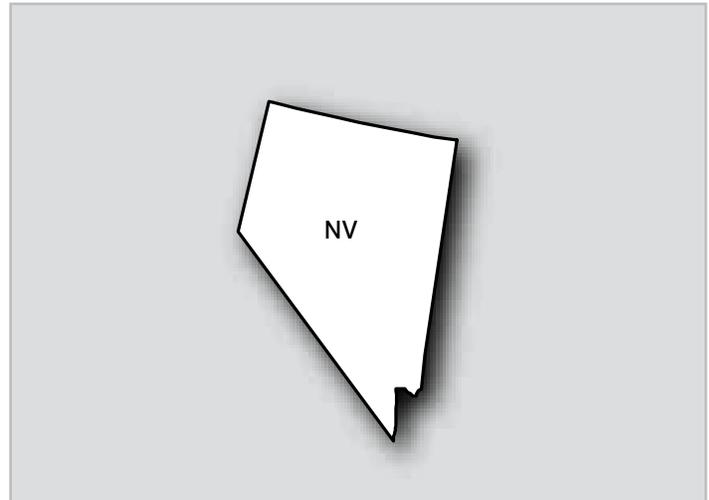
1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Nevada

Total Score: 92/150	Total Percentage: 61%	Overall Rank: 29
Oversight Score: 23/40	Oversight Percentage: 58%	Oversight Rank: 28
Program Standards Score: 69/110	Standards Percentage: 63%	Program Standards Rank: 26

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$9,413
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$7,532



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Nevada

Strengths

- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents.

Weaknesses

- Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry.
- Providers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED.
- Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups.
- Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for six age groups.
- Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.

Recommendations

- Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry.
- Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups.
- Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups.
- Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

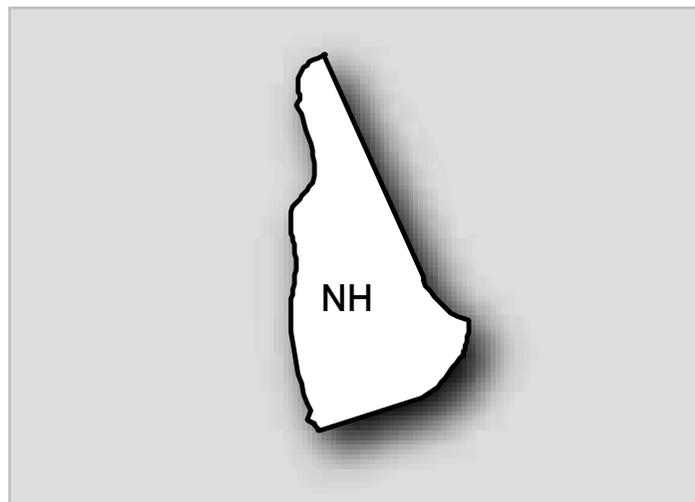
Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in New Hampshire

Total Score: 104/150	Total Percentage: 69%	Overall Rank: 13
Oversight Score: 26/40	Oversight Percentage: 65%	Oversight Rank: 21
Program Standards Score: 78/110	Standards Percentage: 71%	Program Standards Rank: 16



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$11,995*
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$9,541*

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in New Hampshire

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and federal criminal records and checks of child abuse and neglect registry and sex offender registry. ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are only required to have initial training on four of the specific topics. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 116 programs.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require providers to have comprehensive initial training. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors.

State Note: *Annual child care center costs used 2009 data, adjusted for inflation.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in New Jersey

Total Score: 99/150	Total Percentage: 66%	Overall Rank: 17
Oversight Score: 9/40	Oversight Percentage: 22%	Oversight Rank: 46
Program Standards Score: 90/110	Standards Percentage: 82%	Program Standards Rank: 3

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$11,135
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$9,098



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in New Jersey

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and federal criminal records and checks of child abuse and neglect registry and sex offender registry. ■ Lead teachers are required to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address firearms controls. ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for six age groups. ■ Licensing inspections of child care centers are conducted once every three years. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 105 programs. ■ Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Increase licensing inspections of child care centers to at least once a year. ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors. ■ Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

State Note: In New Jersey, regulations indicate renewal inspections occur every three years. Additionally, child care inspection staff now conduct annual monitoring inspections. Other inspections are conducted as circumstances or concerns arise such as complaint investigations or requests to change the center's license such as new space approval.

Notes:

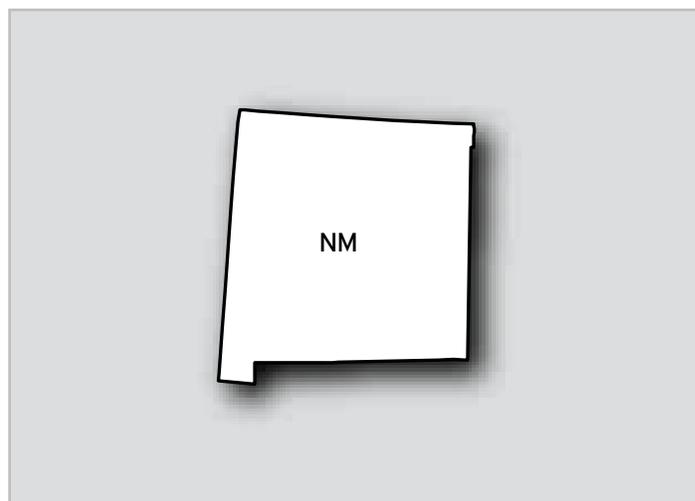
1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in New Mexico

Total Score: 95/150	Total Percentage: 63%	Overall Rank: 25
Oversight Score: 28/40	Oversight Percentage: 70%	Oversight Rank: 17
Program Standards Score: 67/110	Standards Percentage: 61%	Program Standards Rank: 32

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$6,843
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$6,145



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in New Mexico

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to complete 24 hours or more of annual training. ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address transportation head counts. ■ All centers have licensing inspections twice a year as well as health, safety or fire inspections twice a year. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Providers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups. ■ Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in New York

Total Score: 116/150	Total Percentage: 77%	Overall Rank: 2
Oversight Score: 34/40	Oversight Percentage: 85%	Oversight Rank: 6
Program Standards Score: 82/110	Standards Percentage: 75%	Program Standards Rank: 10



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$14,009
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$11,585

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in New York

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address firearms controls. ■ All centers have licensing inspections at least four times per year as well as health, safety or fire inspections once a year. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without a FBI fingerprint check. ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry.

State Note: New York required 30 hours of training every two years.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in North Carolina

Total Score: 97/150	Total Percentage: 65%	Overall Rank: 21
Oversight Score: 37/40	Oversight Percentage: 92%	Oversight Rank: 2
Program Standards Score: 60/110	Standards Percentage: 55%	Program Standards Rank: 42



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$9,185*
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$7,774*

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in North Carolina

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and federal criminal records and checks of child abuse and neglect registry and sex offender registry. ■ Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address weekend/evening care. ■ Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address emergency planning. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Directors are required to have less than a CDA credential. ■ Providers are only required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the director to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups.

State Note: *Annual child care center costs used 2010 data, adjusted for inflation.

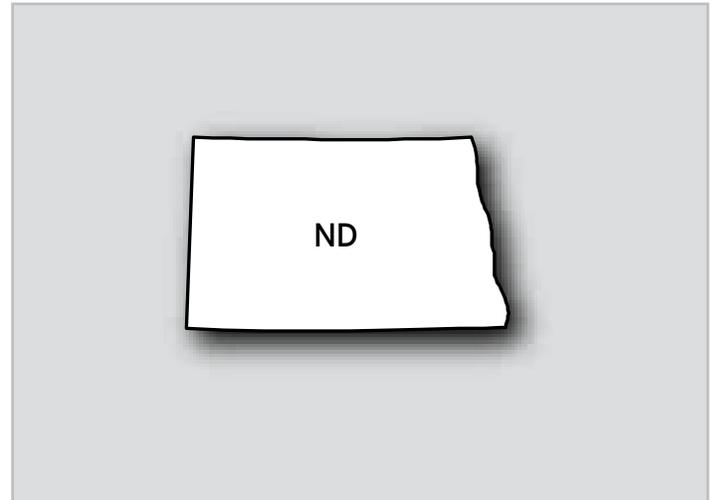
Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in North Dakota

Total Score: 112/150	Total Percentage: 75%	Overall Rank: 4
Oversight Score: 26/40	Oversight Percentage: 65%	Oversight Rank: 21
Program Standards Score: 86/110	Standards Percentage: 78%	Program Standards Rank: 6



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$7,705
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$6,807

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in North Dakota

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address outdoor play surfaces. ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ All centers have licensing inspections twice a year as well as health, safety or fire inspections twice a year. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without a state fingerprint check. ■ Providers are only required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Ohio

Total Score: 90/150	Total Percentage: 60%	Overall Rank: 33
Oversight Score: 28/40	Oversight Percentage: 70%	Oversight Rank: 17
Program Standards Score: 62/110	Standards Percentage: 56%	Program Standards Rank: 38



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$7,889
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$6,376

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Ohio

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks do not require a check of either the sex offender registry or the child abuse registry. ■ Providers are only required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender and child abuse registries. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups. ■ Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.

State Note: In Ohio, child care staff members must complete a minimum of 15 clock hours of training annually until a total of 45 hours have been completed. After 45 hours, no additional hours are required.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Oklahoma

Total Score: 112/150	Total Percentage: 75%	Overall Rank: 4
Oversight Score: 37/40	Oversight Percentage: 92%	Oversight Rank: 2
Program Standards Score: 75/110	Standards Percentage: 68%	Program Standards Rank: 21



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$7,288
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$5,397

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Oklahoma

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ All centers have licensing inspections three times per year as well as health, safety or fire inspections. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 50 programs or fewer. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks do not require a check of the child abuse registry. ■ Providers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for five age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for six age groups.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks should include a check of the child abuse registry. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups.

State Note: Oklahoma passed legislation in 2011 requiring a fingerprint check of FBI and state records. This goes into effect in November, 2013.

Joshua's List is a Child Care Restricted Registry that records people who have a confirmed finding of child abuse while working in a child care program.

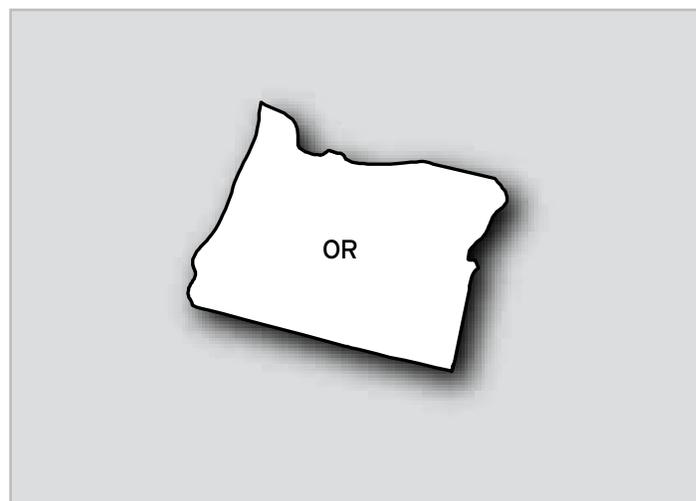
Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Oregon

Total Score: 91/150	Total Percentage: 61%	Overall Rank: 32
Oversight Score: 18/40	Oversight Percentage: 45%	Oversight Rank: 39
Program Standards Score: 73/110	Standards Percentage: 66%	Program Standards Rank: 23



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$11,079*
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$8,542*

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Oregon

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address universal health precautions. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ All centers have licensing inspections twice a year as well as health, safety or fire inspections twice a year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints. ■ Directors are required to have less than a CDA credential. ■ Providers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 117 programs. ■ Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree. ■ Inspection reports are not available online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Require the director to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors. ■ Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

State Note: *Annual child care center costs used 2010 data, adjusted for inflation

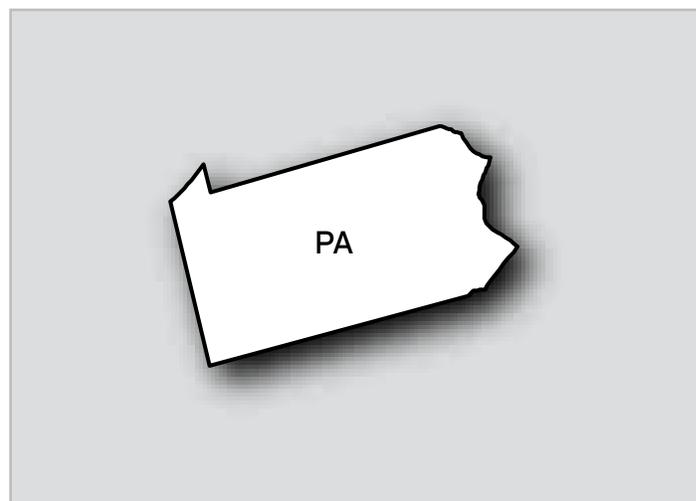
Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Pennsylvania

Total Score: 96/150	Total Percentage: 64%	Overall Rank: 22
Oversight Score: 17/40	Oversight Percentage: 42%	Oversight Rank: 41
Program Standards Score: 79/110	Standards Percentage: 72%	Program Standards Rank: 14



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$10,504*
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$8,588*

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Pennsylvania

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lead teachers are required to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without a state fingerprint check. ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Providers are only required to have initial training on one of the specific topics. ■ Providers are required to complete only six hours of annual training. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 103 programs. ■ Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Require providers to have comprehensive initial training. ■ Require providers to complete 24 hours or more of annual training. ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors. ■ Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.

State Note: *Annual child care center costs used 2010 data, adjusted for inflation

Notes:

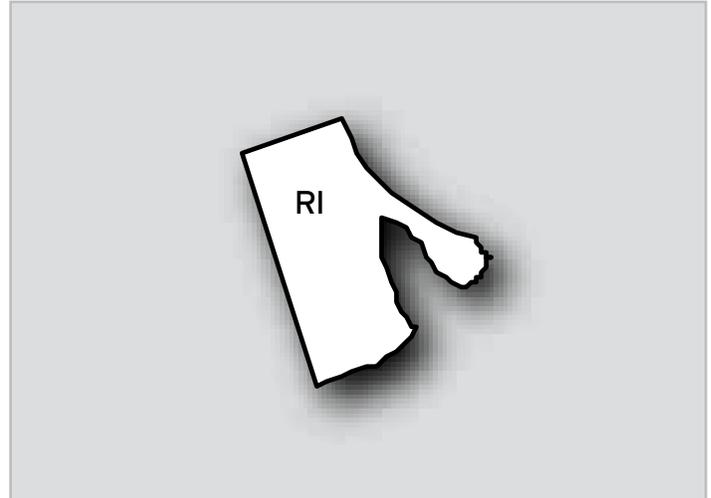
1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Rhode Island

Total Score: 94/150	Total Percentage: 63%	Overall Rank: 27
Oversight Score: 7/40	Oversight Percentage: 18%	Oversight Rank: 47
Program Standards Score: 87/110	Standards Percentage: 79%	Program Standards Rank: 5

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$11,830
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$9,932



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Rhode Island

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 220 programs. ■ Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors. ■ Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

State Note: State Note: In Rhode Island, the Head Teacher is the Education Coordination and has a higher education requirement than the Director. The minimum education for a Head Teacher is a Rhode Island certificate in Early Childhood Education.

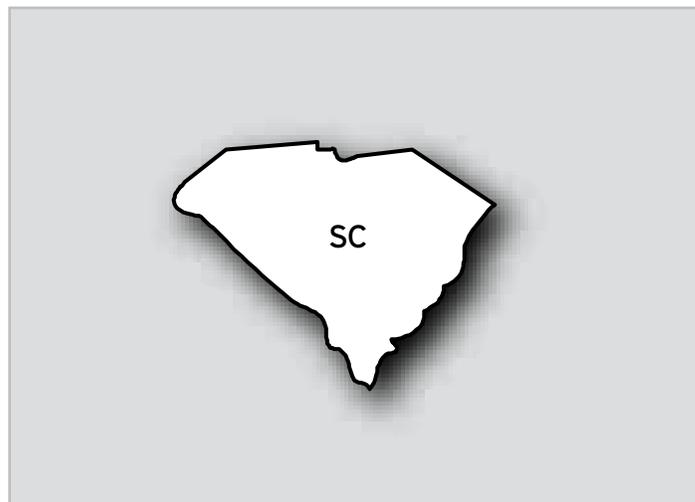
Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in South Carolina

Total Score: 80/150	Total Percentage: 53%	Overall Rank: 45
Oversight Score: 32/40	Oversight Percentage: 80%	Oversight Rank: 10
Program Standards Score: 48/110	Standards Percentage: 44%	Program Standards Rank: 48



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$5,855
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$5,455

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited. *	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in South Carolina

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and federal criminal records and checks of child abuse and neglect registry and sex offender registry. ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ All centers have licensing inspections three times per year as well as health, safety or fire inspections. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Directors are required to have less than a CDA credential. ■ Providers are only required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Requirements do not prohibit corporal punishment. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the director to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require centers to prohibit corporal punishment. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups.

State Note: *South Carolina scored zero on the safety standard because it does not prohibit corporal punishment

Notes:

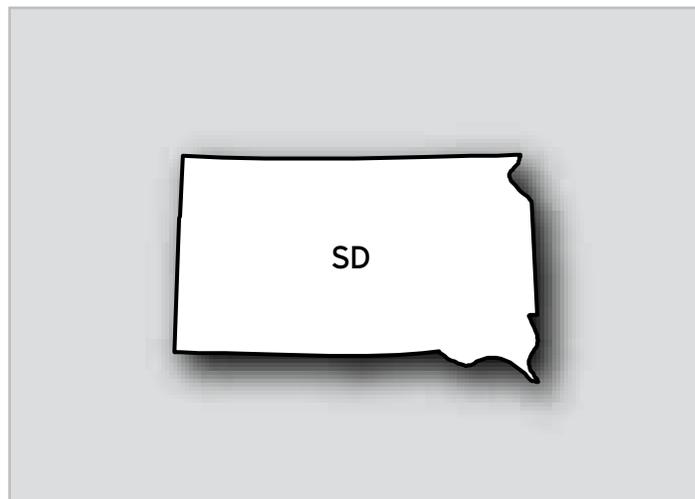
1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in South Dakota

Total Score: 92/150	Total Percentage: 61%	Overall Rank: 29
Oversight Score: 27/40	Oversight Percentage: 68%	Oversight Rank: 20
Program Standards Score: 65/110	Standards Percentage: 59%	Program Standards Rank: 34

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$5,947*
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$5,665*



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in South Dakota

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and federal criminal records and checks of child abuse and neglect registry and sex offender registry. ■ Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address universal health precautions. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 50 programs or fewer. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Centers are not required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents or share written policies. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for five age groups. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require centers to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

State Note: * Annual child care center costs used 2010 data, adjusted for inflation.

Notes:

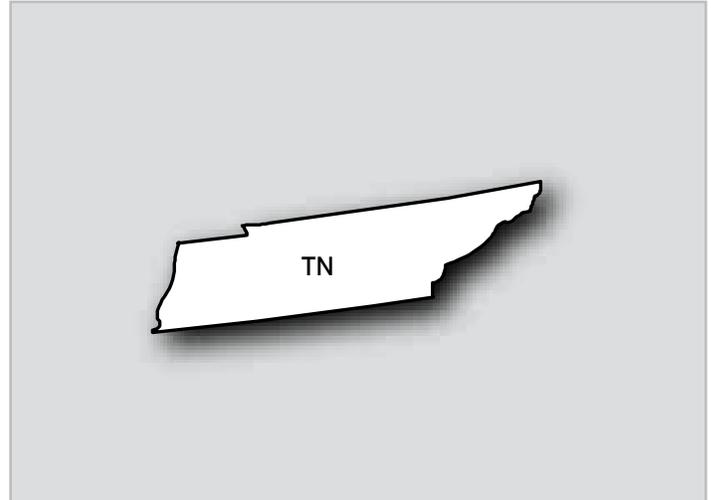
1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Tennessee

Total Score: 106/150	Total Percentage: 71%	Overall Rank: 10
Oversight Score: 28/40	Oversight Percentage: 70%	Oversight Rank: 17
Program Standards Score: 78/110	Standards Percentage: 71%	Program Standards Rank: 16

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$7,748
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$6,578



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Tennessee

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and federal criminal records and checks of child abuse and neglect registry and sex offender registry. ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ All centers have licensing inspections at least four times per year as well as health, safety or fire inspections twice a year. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 50 programs or fewer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Directors are required to have less than a CDA credential. ■ Providers are only required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the director to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Texas

Total Score: 112/150	Total Percentage: 75%	Overall Rank: 4
Oversight Score: 33/40	Oversight Percentage: 82%	Oversight Rank: 8
Program Standards Score: 79/110	Standards Percentage: 72%	Program Standards Rank: 14



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$8,323
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$6,414

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Texas

Strengths

- Providers are required to complete 24 hours or more of annual training.
- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.

Weaknesses

- Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry.
- Providers are only required to have a high school diploma or GED.
- Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups.
- Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for six age groups.

Recommendations

- Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry.
- Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field.
- Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups.
- Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups.

Notes:

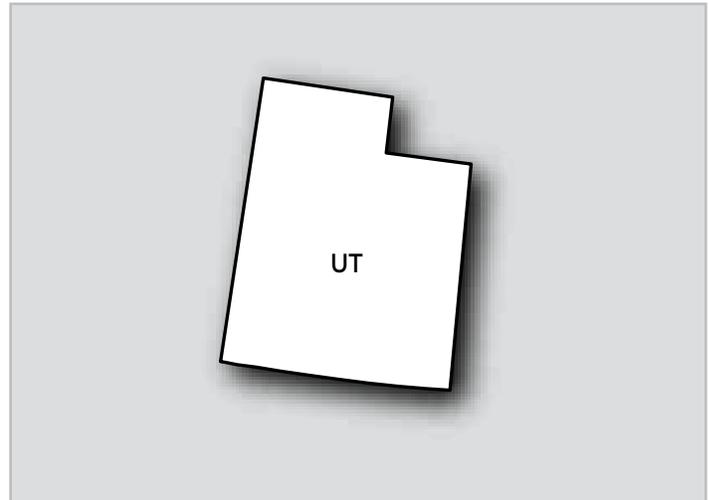
1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Utah

Total Score: 101/150	Total Percentage: 67%	Overall Rank: 16
Oversight Score: 33/40	Oversight Percentage: 82%	Oversight Rank: 8
Program Standards Score: 68/110	Standards Percentage: 62%	Program Standards Rank: 28

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$7,848
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$5,988



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Utah

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address weekend/evening care. ■ Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address firearms controls. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Providers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field.

State Note: In Utah, fingerprint check against state and federal records is required for candidates who have lived in Utah for less than five years. After July 1, 2013, the five year residency exemption is eliminated so that all new employees will be required to have a FBI check and a fingerprint check of state criminal records.

Utah limits access to firearms, but concealed weapons are allowed.

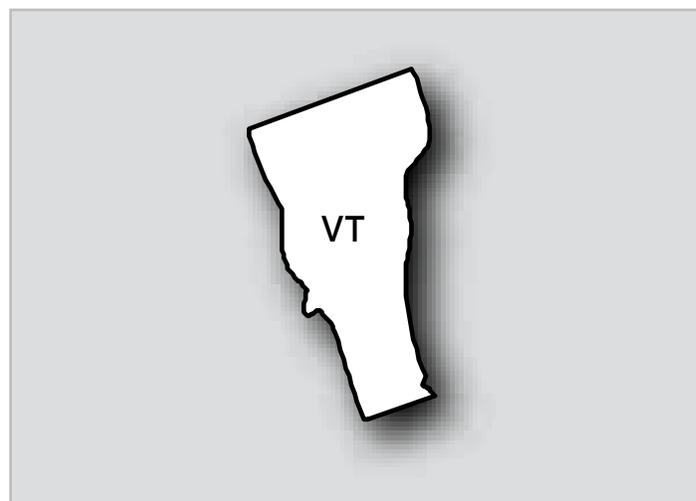
Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

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2013 State of Child Care Centers in Vermont

Total Score: 88/150	Total Percentage: 59%	Overall Rank: 35
Oversight Score: 10/40	Oversight Percentage: 25%	Oversight Rank: 44
Program Standards Score: 78/110	Standards Percentage: 71%	Program Standards Rank: 16



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$9,612*
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$8,758*

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Vermont

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to offer activities addressing all developmental domains. ■ Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address weekend/evening care. ■ Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address firearms controls. ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints. ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Providers are only required to have initial training on three of the specific topics. ■ Licensing inspections of child care centers are conducted not in regulation. ■ Child care licensing staff have an average caseload of 228 programs. ■ Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Require providers to have comprehensive initial training. ■ Increase licensing inspections of child care centers to at least once a year. ■ Reduce the caseload for licensing inspectors. ■ Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.

State Note: In Vermont, we coded minimum education for directors of centers with 13-59 children. Directors in centers with more than 60 children are required to have a BA in early childhood education or a related field.

Vermont is hiring new licensing staff in 2013 that will reduce caseloads from the 256:1 recorded in WCDB 2011 to 178:1.

Vermont does not have a regulation or policy requiring regular inspections. It strives for annual inspections.

*Annual child care center costs used 2010 data, adjusted for inflation

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Virginia

Total Score: 104/150	Total Percentage: 69%	Overall Rank: 13
Oversight Score: 36/40	Oversight Percentage: 90%	Oversight Rank: 4
Program Standards Score: 68/110	Standards Percentage: 62%	Program Standards Rank: 28



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$10,670
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$8,296

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Virginia

Strengths

- Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards.
- Safety standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address firearms controls.
- Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents.
- All centers have licensing inspections twice a year as well as health, safety or fire inspections twice a year.
- Inspection and complaint reports are available online.

Weaknesses

- Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints.
- Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry.
- Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups.

Recommendations

- Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history.
- Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry.
- Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
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5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
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2013 State of Child Care Centers in Washington

Total Score: 114/150	Total Percentage: 76%	Overall Rank: 3
Oversight Score: 31/40	Oversight Percentage: 78%	Oversight Rank: 11
Program Standards Score: 83/110	Standards Percentage: 75%	Program Standards Rank: 9



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$10,920
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$8,320

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Washington

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo a comprehensive background check that includes using fingerprints to check state and federal criminal records and checks of child abuse and neglect registry and sex offender registry. ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are only required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Providers are required to complete only 10 hours of annual training.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require providers to complete 24 hours or more of annual training.

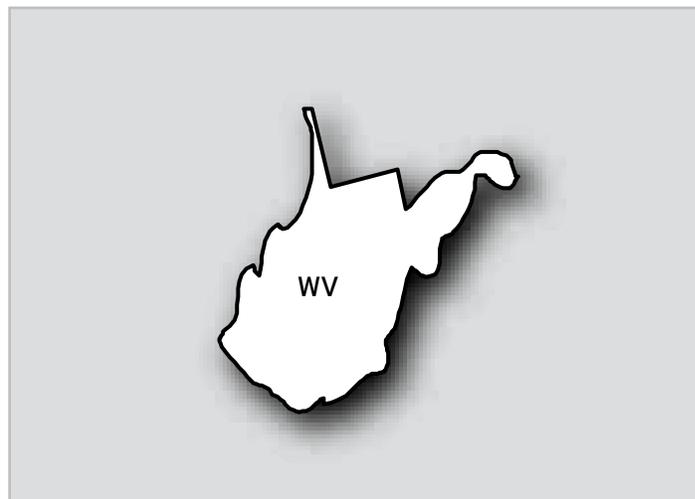
Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in West Virginia

Total Score: 98/150	Total Percentage: 65%	Overall Rank: 18
Oversight Score: 26/40	Oversight Percentage: 65%	Oversight Rank: 26
Program Standards Score: 72/110	Standards Percentage: 65%	Program Standards Rank: 25



2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$6,932
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$5,806

Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in West Virginia

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access and give written policies to parents. ■ Child care licensing staff are required to have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without an FBI fingerprint check. ■ Background checks do not require a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Directors are required to have less than a CDA credential. ■ Providers are only required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for five age groups. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Background checks should include a check of the sex offender registry. ■ Require the director to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

State Note: In West Virginia, we coded minimum education for directors for centers that serve 31-60 children. Directors in centers that serve more than 60 children are required to have a minimum of an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.

In West Virginia, staff must attend 45 training hours within three years to maintain their West Virginia STARS Career Pathway Certificate.

Notes:

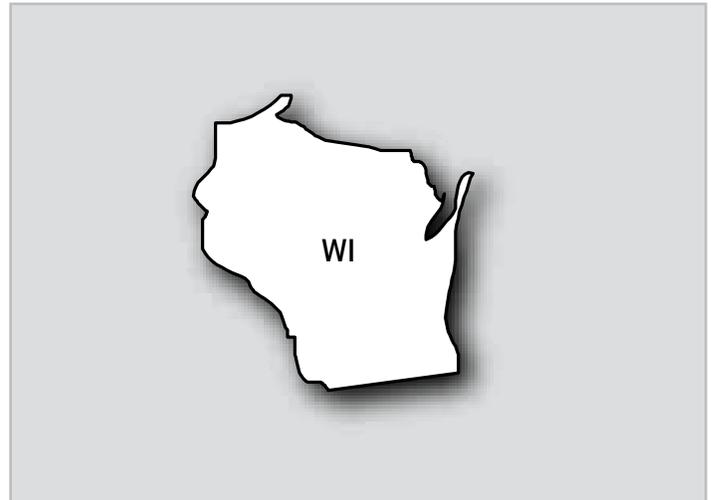
1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Wisconsin

Total Score: 110/150	Total Percentage: 73%	Overall Rank: 7
Oversight Score: 22/40	Oversight Percentage: 55%	Oversight Rank: 33
Program Standards Score: 88/110	Standards Percentage: 80%	Program Standards Rank: 4

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$10,775
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$9,588



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Wisconsin

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to complete 24 hours or more of annual training. ■ Health standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ Inspection and complaint reports are available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints. ■ Child care licensing staff are not required to have a bachelor's degree.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Require licensing staff to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related field.

State Note: In Wisconsin, director qualifications are for programs licensed for 51 or more children.

In Wisconsin, the minimum number of required visits is one visit per year if the provider has a capacity of 50 or fewer, or two visits per year if the provider has a capacity of 50 or more.

In Wisconsin, a statutory provision to require vehicle safety alarms in vehicles designed to carry seven or more people and used to transport children in child care has been implemented and is being incorporated into the licensing rules.

Notes:

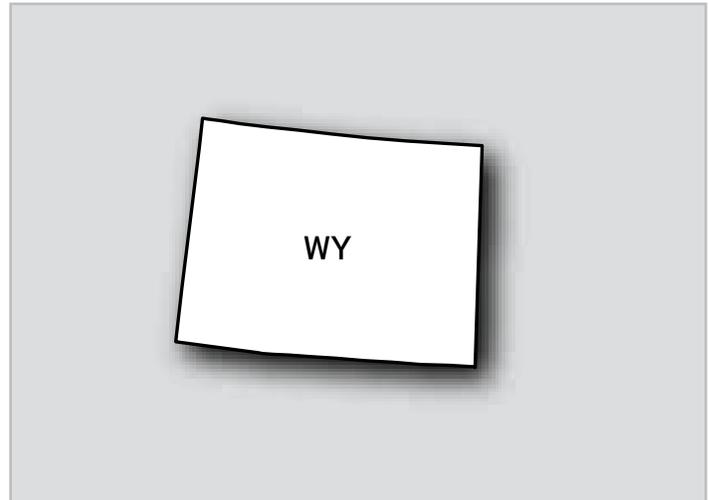
1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
4. Planning learning activities includes language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limit screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.
5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

Source for cost of care information is 2011-2013 data from Child Care Aware® of America. (2012). *Parents and the High cost of Child Care: 2012 Update* <http://www.naccrra.org/about-child-care/cost-of-child-care>.

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Wyoming

Total Score: 79/150	Total Percentage: 53%	Overall Rank: 46
Oversight Score: 26/40	Oversight Percentage: 65%	Oversight Rank: 21
Program Standards Score: 53/110	Standards Percentage: 48%	Program Standards Rank: 45

2011 Annual Child Care Center Costs	
For an Infant:	\$7,727
For a 4-Year-Old:	\$7,316



Program Standards	Meets
1. A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.	
2. Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field.	
3. Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in specific topics.	
5. Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in specific topics.	
6. Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address specific developmental domains.	

Program Standards	Meets
7. Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas.	
8. Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas. Corporal punishment is prohibited.	
9. Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and give written policies to parents.	
10. Staff:child ratio requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for seven age groups.	
11. Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.	

Oversight Standards	Meets
1. Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.	
2. Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.	
3. Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.	
4. Online inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.	

Key Fully Meets Substantially Meets Partially Meets Marginally Meets Does not meet

2013 State of Child Care Centers in Wyoming

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health standards address nine of 10 basic standards; programs are not required to address universal health precautions. ■ Safety standards address 10 of 10 basic standards. ■ All centers have licensing inspections twice a year as well as health, safety or fire inspections twice a year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Providers are required to undergo background checks, but these checks are completed without using fingerprints. ■ Directors are required to have less than a CDA credential. ■ Providers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED. ■ Programs are only required to address two of the specified domain activities. ■ Group size requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for any of the seven age groups. ■ Staff:child ratio requirements do not meet NAEYC accreditation standards for six age groups. ■ Neither complaint nor inspection reports are online.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Require the use of state and federal fingerprints for checking individuals' criminal history. ■ Require the director to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field. ■ Require lead teachers to have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or related field. ■ Require providers to offer activities addressing all developmental domains. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for group size in all seven age groups. ■ Require centers to comply with NAEYC accreditation standards for staff:child ratios in all seven age groups. ■ Make both inspection and complaint reports available online.

Notes:

1. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150. Ranks out of 52, including 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD).
2. In addition to orientation, topics of initial training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
3. Topics of annual training are child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.
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5. Ten health areas are hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.
6. Ten safety areas are SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation (with head count), firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Prohibiting corporal punishment is scored separately. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark.
7. Source for regulatory information: State regulations reviewed by staff at Child Care Aware® of America and by state licensing staff and are current as of February 1, 2013.

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Appendix B

State Tables for Criteria Scored

Program Benchmark 1: Type of Background Check

A comprehensive background check is required, including using fingerprints to check state and FBI records, checking the child abuse registry and checking the sex offender registry.

State Background Check Requirements for Child Care Center Staff

State	Federal Fingerprints	State Fingerprints	Criminal Record Check	Child Abuse Registries	Sex Offender Registries
Alabama	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Alaska	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Arkansas	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
California	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Department of Defense	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
District of Columbia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Florida	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Georgia	No	No	Yes	No	No
Hawaii	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Idaho	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Illinois	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indiana	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Iowa	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kansas	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Kentucky	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	No	No	Yes	No	No
Maine	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Maryland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Massachusetts	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Michigan	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Minnesota	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Missouri	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Montana	No	No	Yes	Yes	No

State Background Check Requirements for Child Care Center Staff

State	Federal Fingerprints	State Fingerprints	Criminal Record Check	Child Abuse Registries	Sex Offender Registries
Nebraska	No	No	No	Yes	No
Nevada	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Jersey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
New York	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ohio	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Oregon	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
South Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Texas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Utah	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Vermont	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Virginia	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Washington	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Wisconsin	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Notes: Arizona will begin to conduct background checks of the child abuse registry as of August 2013.

In California, a check of the sex offender registry is conducted, but it is not required in regulations or in policy. We recommend it be required by regulation or policy.

Florida completes a child abuse registry check for all owners, operators and directors, but not of employees. A check of the sex offender registry is conducted by address.

In Indiana, a fingerprint check against FBI records is required for the child care program applicant only. Employees are not required to have a FBI check.

In Maryland, staff are required to undergo a background check that includes using fingerprints for state and federal records and a check of the child abuse and neglect registry. A check of the sex offender registry is not required in regulation.

In Massachusetts, legislation passed in January 2013, requiring a fingerprint check against FBI records on all child care center staff. This will become effective on September 1, 2013. Although the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care does not require a check of the Massachusetts Sex Offender data base, the Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry law requires the local police departments to notify all schools and child care centers about level 2 and level 3 sex offenders in the town in which the sex offender resides and works.

In Michigan, the sex offender check is completed on the address of the program, not the individual.

In Montana, a fingerprint check against state and FBI criminal records is required for candidates who have lived in Montana for less than five years.

Oklahoma passed legislation in 2011 requiring a fingerprint check of FBI and state records. This law goes into effect in November 2013. The state requires a check against "Joshua's List," a Child Care Restricted Registry that records people who have a confirmed finding of child abuse while working in a child care program (but it is not a check against all individuals with a substantiated finding of child abuse on the state child abuse registry).

In Oregon, a fingerprint check against FBI records is required for candidates who have lived in the state for less than 18 months. There is no state fingerprint requirement.

In February 2013, Utah passed a law, effective July 1, 2013, that eliminates the five-year residency exemption for fingerprint checks.

In March 2013, Georgia passed legislation to require a fingerprint check against federal records. The new law becomes effective January 1, 2014.

Number of States Requiring Specific Element of Background Checks

Requirement	Number of States
FBI criminal record check based on fingerprints	32*
State criminal record check based on fingerprints	30*
Criminal record check	51*
Child abuse registries	47*
Sex offender registries	23
*Includes DoD	

Program Benchmark 2: Minimum Education for Directors

Child care center directors are required to have a bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education (ECE) or a related field.

Program Benchmark 3: Minimum Education for Lead Teachers

Lead teachers are required to have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, college courses in early childhood education or an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.

Education Requirements for Directors and Lead Teachers

State	Minimum Education Requirement for Directors	Minimum Education Requirement for Lead Teachers
Alabama	Clock hours in early childhood education (ECE), credits or credential less than CDA	High school diploma or GED
Alaska	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	Less than high school diploma or GED
Arizona	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential less than CDA	High school diploma or GED
Arkansas	High school diploma or GED	Less than high school diploma or GED
California	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential less than CDA
Colorado	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential less than CDA
Connecticut	Less than high school diploma or GED	CDA
Delaware	Associates degree in ECE or related field	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential less than CDA
Department of Defense	Bachelor's degree in ECE or related field	CDA
District of Columbia	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential less than CDA
Florida	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	Less than high school diploma or GED
Georgia	CDA	CDA
Hawaii	CDA	CDA
Idaho	Less than high school diploma or GED	Less than high school diploma or GED
Illinois	CDA	CDA
Indiana	Associates degree in ECE or related field	High school diploma or GED
Iowa	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential less than CDA	Less than high school diploma or GED
Kansas	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	High school diploma or GED
Kentucky	High school diploma or GED	High school diploma or GED
Louisiana	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential less than CDA	Less than high school diploma or GED

Education Requirements for Directors and Lead Teachers

State	Minimum Education Requirement for Directors	Minimum Education Requirement for Lead Teachers
Maine	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	High school diploma or GED
Maryland	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential less than CDA	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential less than CDA
Massachusetts	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA
Michigan	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential less than CDA
Minnesota	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	CDA
Mississippi	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	Less than high school diploma or GED
Missouri	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	Less than high school diploma or GED
Montana	Less than high school diploma or GED	Less than high school diploma or GED
Nebraska	High school diploma or GED	Less than high school diploma or GED
Nevada	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	Less than high school diploma or GED
New Hampshire	CDA	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA
New Jersey	Bachelor's degree in unrelated field	CDA
New Mexico	CDA	Less than high school diploma or GED
New York	CDA	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential less than CDA
North Carolina	High school diploma or GED	High school diploma or GED
North Dakota	CDA	High school diploma or GED
Ohio	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	High school diploma or GED
Oklahoma	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	Less than high school diploma or GED
Oregon	Less than high school diploma or GED	Less than high school diploma or GED
Pennsylvania	Associates degree in ECE or related field	Associate degree in ECE or related field
Rhode Island	CDA	Bachelor's degree in ECE or related field
South Carolina	High school diploma or GED	High school diploma or GED
South Dakota	CDA	Less than high school diploma or GED
Tennessee	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential less than CDA	High school diploma or GED
Texas	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	High school diploma or GED
Utah	CDA	Less than high school diploma or GED
Vermont	CDA	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential less than CDA

Education Requirements for Directors and Lead Teachers

State	Minimum Education Requirement for Directors	Minimum Education Requirement for Lead Teachers
Virginia	CDA	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential less than CDA
Washington	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	High school diploma or GED
West Virginia	High school diploma or GED	High school diploma or GED
Wisconsin	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential less than CDA
Wyoming	Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential less than CDA	Less than high school diploma or GED

Notes: In Hawaii, directors in infant/toddler centers must have two years of college with 30 hours in early childhood education.

In Missouri, minimum education was coded for directors for centers with 21-60 children. Additional education is required for directors in centers with 61-99 children and for directors in centers with 100 or more children.

In Rhode Island, the Head Teacher is the Education Coordinator and has a higher education requirement than the Director. The minimum education for a Head Teacher is a Rhode Island certificate in Early Childhood Education.

In Vermont, we coded minimum education for directors of centers with 13-59 children. Directors in centers with more than 60 children are required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.

In West Virginia, minimum education was coded for directors for centers that serve 31-60 children. Directors in centers that serve more than 60 children are required to have a minimum of an associate degree in early childhood education or a related field.

In Wisconsin, minimum education was coded for directors for centers licensed for 51 or more children.

Florida does not have a "Lead Teacher" designation. For every 20 children, one staff must have the equivalent of a CDA credential. That person does not need to work directly with children.

In Missouri, minimum education for lead teachers is based on general staff requirements. Missouri does not have a lead teacher designation.

Number of States Requiring a Specific Level of Education for Child Care Directors

Level of Education Required	Number of States
Less than high school diploma or GED	4
High school diploma or GED	6
Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential less than a CDA	7
Child Development Associate (CDA) credential	12
Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than a CDA	18
Associates degree in ECE or related field	3
Bachelor's degree in unrelated field	1
Bachelor's degree in ECE or related field	1*
Total	52*
*Includes DoD	

Number of States Requiring a Specific Level Education for Child Care Teachers

Level of Education Required	Number of States
Less than high school diploma or GED	17
High school diploma or GED	14
Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential less than CDA	10
CDA credential	7*
Clock hours in ECE, credits or credential more than CDA	2
Associate degree in ECE or related field	1
Bachelor's degree in ECE or related field	1
Total	52*
*Includes DoD	

Program Benchmark 4: Minimum Initial Training

Child care center providers are required to have an orientation and initial training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.

Topics Required for Initial Training for Providers in Child Care Centers

State	Orientation	Child Development	Guidance/ Discipline	Child Abuse	Licensing Regulations	Learning Activities	CPR (All)	Health & Safety	First Aid (All)	Safe Sleep	Shaken Baby	Emergency Procedures
Alabama	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Alaska	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
California	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Colorado	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Delaware	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Department of Defense	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
District of Columbia	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Florida	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Hawaii	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Idaho	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Illinois	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Iowa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Kansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Maine	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Maryland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Michigan	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Missouri	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Montana	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Nebraska	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Nevada	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
New Hampshire	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes

Topics Required for Initial Training for Providers in Child Care Centers

State	Orientation	Child Development	Guidance/ Discipline	Child Abuse	Licensing Regulations	Learning Activities	CPR (All)	Health & Safety	First Aid (All)	Safe Sleep	Shaken Baby	Emergency Procedures
New Jersey	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
New York	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
North Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ohio	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oregon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Pennsylvania	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Rhode Island	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
South Carolina	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Dakota	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Tennessee	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Texas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Utah	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vermont	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Virginia	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Washington	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
West Virginia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Wisconsin	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Number of States that Require Initial Training on Specific Topics

Topics Required in Initial Training	Number of States
Orientation required	44*
Child development	22*
Child guidance	35*
Child abuse detection and reporting	39*
Emergency preparedness	45*
Licensing regulations	39*
Learning activities	21*
Health and safety	46*
Safe sleep (SIDS prevention)	35*
Shaken baby prevention	13
CPR for all staff	10*
First aid for all staff	14*

*Includes DoD

Program Benchmark 5: Minimum Annual Training

Child care center providers are required to have 24 hours or more of annual training in child development, child guidance, child abuse prevention, emergency preparation, licensing regulations, learning activities, health and safety, safe sleep, shaken baby prevention, CPR and first aid.

Hours and Topics of Annual Training Required for Providers in Child Care Centers

State	Required Hours of Annual Training	Topics										
		Child Development	Guidance/Discipline	Child Abuse Recognition	Licensing Regulations	Learning Activities	CPR	Health & Safety	First Aid	Safe Sleep	Shaken Baby	Emergency Preparation
Alabama	12	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Some	Yes	Some	No	No	Yes
Alaska	20	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arizona	18	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	Yes	No	Yes
Arkansas	15	No	No	No	No	No	Some	No	Some	No	No	Yes
California	0	No	No	No	No	No	Some	No	Some	No	No	No
Colorado	15	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	No	No	Yes
Connecticut	21	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	No	No	Yes
Delaware	18	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	All	Yes	All	No	No	No
Department of Defense	24	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	Yes	All	Yes	No	Yes
District of Columbia	18	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	Yes	No	No
Florida	10	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	No	No	Yes
Georgia	10	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Some	No	Some	No	No	No
Hawaii	0	No	No	No	No	No	Some	Yes	Some	No	No	No
Idaho	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	No	No	Yes
Illinois	15	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Some	Yes	Some	No	No	No
Indiana	12	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Some	Yes	All	No	No	No
Iowa	10	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	Yes	All	No	No	Yes
Kansas	10	No	No	No	No	No	All	No	All	Yes	No	No
Kentucky	15	Yes	No	No	No	No	Some	No	Some	No	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Some	Yes	Some	No	No	Yes
Maine	30	No	No	No	No	No	Some	No	Some	No	No	No
Maryland	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	Yes	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	20	No	No	Yes	No	No	Some	Yes	All	No	No	Yes
Michigan	12	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	Yes	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	40	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	All	Yes	All	Yes	Yes	No
Mississippi	15	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	No	No	No
Missouri	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	Yes	Yes	Yes

Hours and Topics of Annual Training Required for Providers in Child Care Centers

State	Required Hours of Annual Training	Topics										
		Child Development	Guidance/Discipline	Child Abuse Recognition	Licensing Regulations	Learning Activities	CPR	Health & Safety	First Aid	Safe Sleep	Shaken Baby	Emergency Preparation
Montana	8	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	Yes	No	No
Nebraska	12	No	No	No	No	No	Some	No	Some	No	No	No
Nevada	15	No	No	No	No	No	All	No	All	No	No	No
New Hampshire	18	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Some	Yes	Some	No	No	No
New Jersey	20	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	No	No	Yes
New Mexico	24	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	Yes	Yes	No
New York	15	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	No	Yes	Yes
North Carolina	20	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	Yes	No	No
North Dakota	13	No	No	No	No	No	Some	No	Some	No	No	No
Ohio	15	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	Yes	Yes	No
Oklahoma	12	No	No	No	No	No	Some	Yes	Some	No	No	No
Oregon	15	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	No	No	No
Pennsylvania	6	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	No	No	Yes
Rhode Island	20	No	No	No	No	No	Some	Yes	Some	No	No	No
South Carolina	15	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	Yes	Yes	No
South Dakota	20	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	All	Yes	All	No	No	Yes
Tennessee	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some	Yes	Some	Yes	Yes	Yes
Texas	24	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some	Yes	All	Yes	Yes	Yes
Utah	20	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Some	Yes	Some	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vermont	12	No	No	No	No	No	All	No	No	No	No	No
Virginia	16	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Some	Yes	Some	No	No	Yes
Washington	10	No	No	No	No	No	Some	No	Some	No	No	No
West Virginia	15	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	Yes	All	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	25	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	All	Yes	No	No	No	No
Wyoming	15	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	Yes	All	Yes	No	Yes

Notes: New York requires 30 hours of training every two years.

In Ohio, child care staff must complete a minimum of 15 clock hours of training annually until a total of 45 hours have been completed. After 45 hours, no additional hours are required.

In West Virginia, staff must attend 45 training hours within three years to maintain their West Virginia STARS Career Pathway Certificate.

Number of States that Require Annual Training on Specific Topics		
Topics Required in Annual Training		Number of States
Child development		39*
Child guidance/Behavior		37*
Child abuse prevention		25*
Emergency preparedness		26*
Licensing regulations		17*
Learning activities		32*
Health and safety		41*
Safe sleep (SIDS prevention)		19*
Shaken baby prevention		14*
CPR	For some staff	41
	For all staff	11*
First Aid	For some staff	38
	For all staff	12*
*Includes DoD		

Number of States that Require Specific Hours of Annual Training	
Hours of Annual Training Required	Number of States
5 or fewer hours	3
6 to 11 hours	7
12 to 17 hours	24
18 to 23 hours	12
24 or more hours	6*
Total	52*
*Includes DoD	

Number of States that Require Specific Annual Topics Covered	
Topics Covered	Number of States
All 11 topics annually	1
10 topics covered annually	3*
9 topics covered annually	5
2 - 8 topics covered annually	34
1 topic covered	4
0 topics covered	5
Total	52*
*Includes DoD	

Program Benchmark 6: Learning Activities

Child care centers are required to plan learning activities that address language/literacy, dramatic play, active play, cognitive development/math, self-help skills, creative activities, limited screen time, social development, emotional development and culturally sensitive activities.

Learning Activities Required to Promote Child Development

State	Learning Activities	Dramatic Play	Language/ Literacy	Active Play	Cognitive development/ Math	Self-help	Creative Activities	Limited screen time	Social Development	Emotional Development	Culturally Sensitive
Alabama	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Alaska	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
California	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Connecticut	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Department of Defense	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
District of Columbia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Florida	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Hawaii	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Idaho	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Illinois	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Iowa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kansas	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Maine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Maryland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Missouri	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Montana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No

Learning Activities Required to Promote Child Development

State	Learning Activities	Dramatic Play	Language/ Literacy	Active Play	Cognitive development/ Math	Self-help	Creative Activities	Limited screen time	Social Development	Emotional Development	Culturally Sensitive
Nebraska	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Nevada	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Hampshire	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Jersey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
New York	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
North Dakota	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ohio	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Oregon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
South Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Texas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Utah	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Vermont	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Washington	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes

Number of States that Require Learning Activities Related to Child Development	
Child Development Activities	Number of States
Plan learning activities	49*
Language/literacy	44*
Dramatic play	36*
Active play	49*
Cognitive development/math	42*
Self-help skills	25*
Creative activities	42*
Limited screen time	27*
Social development activities	40*
Emotional development activities	39*
Culturally sensitive activities	25*
*Includes DoD	

Number of States and the Number of Areas Addressed in Required Learning Activities	
Number of Areas	Number of States
None	1
1 to 4	7
5 to 7	5
8 to 10	32
All 11	7*
Total	52*
*Includes DoD	

Program Benchmark 7: Basic Health Standards

Child care centers are required to follow recommended health practices in 10 specific areas: hand washing/diapering/toileting, nutritious meals and snacks, immunizations, exclusion of ill children, universal health precautions, administration of medications, toxic/hazardous substances, sanitation, weekend/evening care and incident reporting.

Required Health Standards										
State	Hand Washing, Diapering, Toileting	Nutritious Meals and Snacks	Immunizations	Exclude Ill Children	Universal Precautions	Medication Administration	Toxic Substances, Hazards	Sanitation	Week-end, Evening	Incident Reporting
Alabama	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alaska	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
California	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Department of Defense	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
District of Columbia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Florida	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Idaho	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Illinois	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Iowa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Maryland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Missouri	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Montana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nebraska	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Nevada	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Required Health Standards										
State	Hand Washing, Diapering, Toileting	Nutritious Meals and Snacks	Immunizations	Exclude Ill Children	Universal Precautions	Medication Administration	Toxic Substances, Hazards	Sanitation	Week-end, Evening	Incident Reporting
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Jersey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New York	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
North Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ohio	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oregon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
South Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Texas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Utah	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Vermont	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Washington	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Specific Health Practices Required By Number of States	
Health Requirement	Number of States
Hand washing, diapering and toileting	51*
Nutritious meals and snacks	52*
Immunizations	51*
Exclusion of ill children	50*
Universal health requirements	34*
Administration of medication	52*
Toxic substances and hazards	52*
Sanitation	52*
Weekend and evening care	43*
Incidence reporting	50*

*Includes DoD

Number of Health Areas Required By Number of States

Number of Areas	Number of States
6	1
8	6
9	17
All 10	28*
Total	52*
*Includes DoD	

Program Benchmark 8: Basic Safety Standards

Child care centers are required to follow recommended safety practices in 10 specific areas: SIDS prevention, discipline/guidance, fire drills, outdoor playground surfaces, emergency plans, electrical hazards, water hazards, supervision, transportation supervision and firearms (prohibited or access controlled). Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Required Safety Standards											
State	SIDS Prevention	Discipline, Guidance	Electrical Hazards	Water Hazards	Fire Drills	Playground Surfaces	Supervision	Transportation Supervision	Emergency Plan	Fire arms Regulated	Prohibit Corporal Punishment
Alabama	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Alaska	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	Access controlled	Yes
California	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	Access controlled	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Department of Defense	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
District of Columbia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Florida	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	No regulation	Yes
Hawaii	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No regulation	Yes
Idaho	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Access controlled	No
Illinois	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	No regulation	Yes
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Iowa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No regulation	Yes
Kansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	Access controlled	Yes
Louisiana	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	Firearms prohibited	No

Required Safety Standards

State	SIDS Prevention	Discipline, Guidance	Electrical Hazards	Water Hazards	Fire Drills	Playground Surfaces	Supervision	Transportation Supervision	Emergency Plan	Fire arms Regulated	Prohibit Corporal Punishment
Maine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Maryland^	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Firearms prohibited^	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	Access controlled	Yes
Michigan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Missouri	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	Access controlled	Yes
Montana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	Access controlled	Yes
Nebraska	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Access controlled	Yes
Nevada	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	Access controlled	Yes
New Jersey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	No regulation	Yes
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
New York	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	No regulation	Yes
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	No	Firearms prohibited	Yes
North Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	Access controlled	Yes
Ohio	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	Access controlled	Yes
Oregon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No regulation	Yes
South Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	Access controlled	No
South Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No regulation	Yes

Required Safety Standards

State	SIDS Prevention	Discipline, Guidance	Electrical Hazards	Water Hazards	Fire Drills	Playground Surfaces	Supervision	Transportation Supervision	Emergency Plan	Fire arms Regulated	Prohibit Corporal Punishment
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Texas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Utah [^]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	Concealed weapons permitted#	Yes
Vermont	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	No regulation	Yes
Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	No regulation	Yes
Washington	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not unattended	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
West Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes
Wyoming	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Head count	Yes	Firearms prohibited	Yes

Notes: For transportation, the benchmark is based on whether regulations specifically require a head count of children or if the regulations require no child to be left unattended in a vehicle. For fire arms, the benchmark is based on whether regulations specifically prohibit firearms or if access to firearms is controlled for safety purposes.

[^] In Maryland, firearms are prohibited except in small center in residences. In Utah, fire arms are regulated, but regulations permit carrying concealed weapons.

Specific Safety Practices Required By Number of States

Safety Requirement	Number of States
SIDS prevention	47*
Discipline	51*
Fire drills	51*
Outdoor playground surfaces	45*
Emergency plans	49*
Electrical hazards	50*
Water hazards	51*
Supervision	52*
Transportation supervision	41
Firearms regulation	41* [^]
Prohibit Corporal Punishment	49*

*Includes DoD

Note: Idaho, Louisiana and South Carolina scored zero on this benchmark because they do not prohibit corporal punishment.

[^] In Maryland, firearms are prohibited except in small centers in residences. In Utah, firearms are regulated, but regulations permit carrying concealed weapons.

Number of Safety Areas Required By Number of States

Number of Areas	Number of States
5	2
7	3
8	4
9	15*
All 10	28
Total	52*
*Includes DoD	

Program Benchmark 9: Parent Communication

Child care centers are required to encourage parent involvement, communicate regularly with parents, allow parents access to the center and share written policies with parents.

Strategies for Communication/Involvement with Parents				
State	Ongoing Communication with Parents	Allow Access When Children Are Present	Share Written Policies	Encourage Parent Involvement
Alabama	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Alaska	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	No	Yes	No	No
California	No	Yes	Yes	No
Colorado	No	Yes	Yes	No
Connecticut	No	Yes	Yes	No
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Department of Defense	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
District of Columbia	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Florida	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Idaho	No	Yes	No	No
Illinois	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Iowa	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Kansas	Infants and toddlers only	Yes	Yes	No
Kentucky	No	Yes	No	Yes
Louisiana	Infants and toddlers only	Yes	No	No
Maine	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Maryland	Infants and toddlers only	Yes	Yes	No
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan	Infants and toddlers only	Yes	Yes	No
Minnesota	Infants and toddlers only	Yes	Yes	No
Mississippi	Infants and toddlers only	Yes	Yes	No
Missouri	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Montana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nebraska	No	Yes	No	No
Nevada	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes	No	No
New Jersey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
New York	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Strategies for Communication/Involvement with Parents

State	Ongoing Communication with Parents	Allow Access When Children Are Present	Share Written Policies	Encourage Parent Involvement
North Carolina	No	Yes	Yes	No
North Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ohio	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oregon	Infants and toddlers only	Yes	Yes	No
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Carolina	Infants and toddlers only	Yes	Yes	No
South Dakota	No	Yes	No	No
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Texas	Infants and toddlers only	Yes	Yes	Yes
Utah	Infants and toddlers only	Yes	Yes	No
Vermont	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Washington	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Wyoming	Infants and toddlers only	Yes	Yes	No

Number of States with Specific Requirements Related to Parents

Parent Strategies	Number of States
Ongoing Communication with Parents	41*
Parents of infants and toddlers only	11
All parents	30*
Allow Access When Children Are Present	52*
Share Written Policies	43*
Encourage Parent Involvement	27*

*Includes DoD

Number of States that Require Specific Parent Involvement Elements

Number of Elements	Number of States
4	22*
3	19
2	7
1	4
Total	52*

*Includes DoD

Staff:Child Ratios by Age Group

	6 months	9 months	18 months	27 months	3 years	4 years	5 years
NAEYC Standard	1:4	1:4	1:4	1:6	1:9	1:10	1:10
Alabama	5	5	7	8	11	18	21
Alaska	5	5	5	6	10	10	14
Arizona	5	5	6	8	13	15	20
Arkansas	6	6	9	9	12	15	18
California	4	4	6	6	12	12	14
Colorado	5	5	5	7	10	12	15
Connecticut	4	4	4	4	10	10	10
Delaware	4	4	6	8	10	12	15
Department of Defense	4	4	5	7	12	12	15
District of Columbia	3	4	3	4	8	10	10
Florida	4	4	6	11	15	20	25
Georgia	6	6	8	10	15	18	20
Hawaii	4	4	6	8	12	16	20
Idaho	6	6	6	8	12	12	24
Illinois	4	4	5	8	10	10	20
Indiana	4	4	5	5	10	12	15
Iowa	4	4	4	6	8	12	15
Kansas	3	3	5	7	12	12	14
Kentucky	5	5	6	10	12	14	15
Louisiana	6	6	8	12	14	16	20
Maine	4	4	5	5	7	10	13
Maryland	3	3	3	6	10	10	15
Massachusetts	3	3	4	4	10	10	15
Michigan	4	4	4	4	10	12	18
Minnesota	4	4	7	7	10	10	10
Mississippi	5	5	9	12	14	16	20
Missouri	4	4	4	8	10	10	16
Montana	4	4	4	8	8	10	10
Nebraska	4	4	6	6	10	12	12
Nevada	4	6	8	10	13	13	13
New Hampshire	4	4	5	6	8	12	15
New Jersey	4	4	6	6	10	12	15
New Mexico	6	6	6	10	12	12	12
New York	4	4	5	5	7	8	9
North Carolina	5	5	6	10	15	20	25
North Dakota	4	4	4	5	7	10	12
Ohio	5	5	7	7	12	14	14
Oklahoma	4	4	6	8	12	15	15
Oregon	4	4	4	5	10	10	15
Pennsylvania	4	4	5	6	10	10	10

Staff:Child Ratios by Age Group							
	6 months	9 months	18 months	27 months	3 years	4 years	5 years
NAEYC Standard	1:4	1:4	1:4	1:6	1:9	1:10	1:10
Rhode Island	4	4	6	6	9	10	12
South Carolina	5	5	6	7	11	16	19
South Dakota	5	5	5	5	10	10	10
Tennessee	4	4	6	7	9	13	16
Texas	4	4	9	11	15	18	22
Utah	4	4	4	7	12	15	20
Vermont	4	4	4	5	10	10	10
Virginia	4	4	5	8	10	10	18
Washington	4	4	7	7	10	10	10
West Virginia	4	4	4	8	10	12	12
Wisconsin	4	4	4	6	10	13	17
Wyoming	4	4	5	8	10	12	12

Number of States That Meet NAEYC Accreditation Standards for Staff:Child Ratios for Specific Ages		
Age of Child	Number of States	Percent of States
6 months	37*	71.2%
9 months	36*	69.2%
18 months	14	26.9%
27 months	20	38.5%
3 years	9	17.3%
4 years	19	36.5%
5 years	9	17.3%

*Includes DoD

Number of Age Groups in States that Meet NAEYC Standards for Accreditation for Staff:Child Ratios		
Number of Age Groups Where Standards Met	Number of States Requiring	Percent of States
0	13	25.0%
1	1	1.9%
2	9*	17.3%
3	10	19.2%
4	6	11.5%
5	7	13.5%
6	5	9.6%
7	1	1.9%
Total	52*	

*Includes DoD

Program Benchmark 11: Group Size

Group size requirements comply with NAEYC accreditation standards in seven age groups.

Maximum Group Size by Age Group							
Age	6 months	9 months	18 months	27 months	3 years	4 years	5 years
NAEYC Standard	8	8	8	12	18	20	20
Alabama	No Maximum						
Alaska	10	10	10	12	20	20	28
Arizona	No Maximum						
Arkansas	12	12	18	18	24	30	36
California	No Maximum	No Maximum	12	12	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum
Colorado	10	10	10	14	20	24	30
Connecticut	8	8	8	8	20	20	20
Delaware	8	8	12	16	20	24	30
Department of Defense	8	8	10	14	24	24	24
District of Columbia	9	8	9	12	16	20	20
Florida	No Maximum						
Georgia	12	12	16	20	30	36	40
Hawaii	8	8	12	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum
Idaho	No Maximum						
Illinois	12	12	15	16	20	20	20
Indiana	8	8	10	10	20	24	30
Iowa	No Maximum						
Kansas	9	9	10	14	24	24	28
Kentucky	10	10	12	20	24	28	30
Louisiana	No Maximum						
Maine	8	8	10	12	21	20	No Maximum
Maryland	6	6	9	12	20	20	30
Massachusetts	7	7	9	9	20	20	30
Michigan	12	12	12	12	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum
Minnesota	8	8	14	14	20	20	20

Maximum Group Size by Age Group							
Age	6 months	9 months	18 months	27 months	3 years	4 years	5 years
NAEYC Standard	8	8	8	12	18	20	20
Mississippi	10	10	10	14	14	20	20
Missouri	8	8	8	16	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum
Montana	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum
Nebraska	12	12	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum
Nevada	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum
New Hampshire	12	12	15	18	24	24	30
New Jersey	12	12	20	20	20	20	30
New Mexico	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum
New York	8	8	12	12	18	21	24
North Carolina	10	10	12	20	25	25	25
North Dakota	8	8	8	10	14	20	24
Ohio	12	12	14	14	24	28	28
Oklahoma	8	8	12	16	24	30	30
Oregon	8	8	8	10	20	20	30
Pennsylvania	8	8	10	12	20	20	20
Rhode Island	8	8	12	12	18	20	24
South Carolina	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum
South Dakota	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Tennessee	8	8	12	14	18	20	20
Texas	10	10	18	22	30	35	35
Utah	8	8	8	14	24	30	40
Vermont	8	8	8	10	20	20	20
Virginia	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum	No Maximum
Washington	8	8	14	14	20	20	20
West Virginia	8	8	12	16	20	24	24
Wisconsin	8	8	8	12	20	24	34
Wyoming	10	10	12	18	24	30	30

Number of States That Meet NAEYC Accreditation Standards for Group Sizes for Specific Ages

Age of Child	Number of States Requiring	Percent of States
6 months	22*	42.3%
9 months	23*	44.2%
18 months	7	13.5%
27 months	16	30.8%
3 years	6	11.5%
4 years	18	34.6%
5 years	10	19.2%

*Includes DoD

Number of Age Groups in States That Meet NAEYC Accreditation Group Size Standards

Number of Age Groups Meeting Group Size Standard	Number of States	Percent of States
0	22	42.3%
1	3	5.8%
2	9*	17.3%
3	5	9.6%
4	7	13.5%
5	3	5.8%
6	3	5.8%
7	0	0.0%
Total	52*	

*Includes DoD

Oversight Benchmark 1: Frequency of Inspections

Child care centers are inspected at least four times per year, including visits by licensing, health and fire personnel.

Child Care Center Frequency of Inspections by State					
State	Licensing Inspections	Fire Inspections	Health/ Sanitation Inspections	Number of Visits Required Each Year	Yearly Interval Required for a Visit
Alabama	Once every two years	Once every two years	Once every two years	0	2
Alaska	Once every two years	Once every two years	Not required	0	2
Arizona	Once a year	Not required	Not required	1	1
Arkansas	Three times a year	Once a year	Once a year	5	1
California	Every five years or less	Not required	Not required	0	5
Colorado	Once every two years	Once every two years	Once every two years	0	2
Connecticut	Once every two years	Not required	Once every two years	0	2
Delaware	Once a year	Not required	Not required	1	1
Department of Defense	Twice a year	Once a year	Once a year	4	1
District of Columbia	Once a year	Once a year	Not required	2	1
Florida	Three times a year	Once a year	Once a year	5	1
Georgia	Twice a year	Once a year	Not required	3	1
Hawaii	Once a year	Not required	Not required	1	1
Idaho	Not in regulation	Once every two years	Once every two years	0	2
Illinois	Once a year	Once every three years	Not required	1	1
Indiana	Once a year	Once a year	Not required	2	1
Iowa	Three every two years	Once every two years	Not required	1	1
Kansas	Once a year	Not required	Not required	1	1
Kentucky	Once a year	Not required	Not required	1	1
Louisiana	Once a year	Once a year	Once a year	3	1
Maine	Once a year	Once every two years	Not required	1	1
Maryland	Once a year	Once a year	Not required	2	1
Massachusetts	Once every two years	Not required	Not required	0	2
Michigan	Once a year	Once every four years	Once every two years	1	1
Minnesota	Once every two years	Not required	Not required	0	2

Child Care Center Frequency of Inspections by State

State	Licensing Inspections	Fire Inspections	Health/ Sanitation Inspections	Number of Visits Required Each Year	Yearly Interval Required for a Visit
Mississippi	Once a year	Once a year	Not required	2	1
Missouri	Twice a year	Once a year	Once a year	4	1
Montana	Once every three years	Once a year	Once a year	2	1
Nebraska	Twice a year	Once every two years	Once every two years	2	1
Nevada	Twice a year	Once a year	Not required	3	1
New Hampshire	Once a year	Once every three years	Once every three years	1	1
New Jersey	Once every three years	Once a year	Once a year	2	1
New Mexico	Twice a year	Once a year	Once a year	4	1
New York	Four or more times a year	Once a year	Not required	5	1
North Carolina	Once a year	Once a year	Once a year - Health + Once a year - Building	4	1
North Dakota	Twice a year	Once a year	Once a year	4	1
Ohio	Twice a year	Once a year	Not required	3	1
Oklahoma	Three times a year	Once every two years	Once every two years	3	1
Oregon	Twice a year	Once a year	Once a year	4	1
Pennsylvania	Once a year	Not required	Not required	1	1
Rhode Island	Twice a year	Once a year	Not required	3	1
South Carolina	Three times a year	Once every two years	Once every two years	3	1
South Dakota	Once a year	Once a year	Once a year	3	1
Tennessee	Four or more times a year	Once a year	Once a year	6	1
Texas	Once a year	Once a year	Once a year	3	1
Utah	Twice a year	Once every two years	Once every two years	2	1
Vermont	Not in regulation	Not required	Not required	0	0
Virginia	Twice a year	Once a year	Once a year	4	1
Washington	Once a year	Not required	Not required	1	1
West Virginia	Once a year	Once every two years	Twice a year	3	1
Wisconsin	Once a year	Once a year	Not required	2	1
Wyoming	Twice a year	Once a year	Once a year	4	1

Notes: This table shows the number of inspection visits per program separated by whether at least one inspection is required each year and the yearly interval for inspections. Such inspections are differentiated by whether they are conducted by the state licensing office, fire marshal or health/sanitation department. *(continued)*

Child Care Center Frequency of Inspections by State

State	Licensing Inspections	Fire Inspections	Health/ Sanitation Inspections	Number of Visits Required Each Year	Yearly Interval Required for a Visit
<p>Notes (<i>continued</i>): By regulation, Alaska inspects programs once every two years; however, Alaska has an internal practice of conducting at least one announced and one unannounced inspection per facility per year.</p> <p>Hawaii conducts licensing visits two times per year for providers/programs that are on a two-year license and once a year for providers/programs that are on a one-year license.</p> <p>In Idaho, the two state licensing staff do not conduct licensing inspections. Local contractors handle licensing documentation along with other responsibilities.</p> <p>In Kansas, requirements for fire safety inspections are in accordance with local codes and rules and regulations of the state fire marshal.</p> <p>In Michigan, fire inspections are once every four years, and health inspections are once every two years. In Montana, the number of inspections depends on the licensing type.</p> <p>Montana offers 1, 2, and 3 year licenses depending on whether the program meets the criteria for that licensing type. Programs with no violations have extended registration up to three years. Programs with violations receive a regular one year license. During the period of October 1, 2011-September 30, 2012, 69 percent of centers received a monitoring visit.</p> <p>In New Jersey, regulations indicate child care center renewal inspections occur every three years. Additionally, child care inspection staff currently conduct annual monitoring inspections. Other inspections are conducted as circumstances or concerns arise such as complaint investigations or requests to change the center's license such as new space approval.</p> <p>Vermont does not have a regulation or policy requiring regular inspections and strives for annual inspections.</p> <p>In Wisconsin, the minimum number of required inspections is one visit per year if the provider has a capacity of 50 or fewer or two visits per year if the provider has a capacity of 50 or more.</p>					

Number and Percent of States by Frequency of Inspections

Number of Required Inspections Per Year	Number of States	Percent of States	Licensing Office Inspections Per Year
More than Four	4	8%	2
Four	8*	15%	0
Three	10	19%	4
Two	9	19%	13*
One	12	23%	22
Less than 1 Per Year	9	17%	11

*Includes DoD

Other inspections include fire inspections, health and safety inspections, and building inspections.

Frequency of Inspections in States Without Annual Inspections

Frequency of Inspections	Number of States
Once Every Two Years	7
Once Every Five Years	1
Not Required	1

Oversight Benchmark 2: Posting Inspection Reports

Inspection and complaint reports are available to parents on the Internet.

Licensing Inspection and Complaint Reports for Child Care Centers Online		
State	Inspection Reports Online	Complaint Reports Online
Alabama	No	No
Alaska	No	No
Arizona	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	Yes
California	No	No
Colorado	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	No	Yes
Delaware	Yes	Yes
Department of Defense	Yes	No
District of Columbia	No	No
Florida	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	No	No
Idaho	No	No
Illinois	Yes	No
Indiana	Yes	Yes
Iowa	Yes	No
Kansas	Yes	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	Yes	No
Maine	No	No
Maryland	Yes	No
Massachusetts	No	No
Michigan	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	No	No
Missouri	Yes	No
Montana	Yes	Yes
Nebraska	No	No
Nevada	No	No
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes
New Jersey	No	No
New Mexico	Yes	Yes
New York	Yes	Yes
North Carolina	Yes	Yes

Licensing Inspection and Complaint Reports for Child Care Centers Online

State	Inspection Reports Online	Complaint Reports Online
North Dakota	No	No
Ohio	Yes	Yes
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes
Oregon	No	Yes
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes
Rhode Island	No	No
South Carolina	Yes	Yes
South Dakota	No	No
Tennessee	No	No
Texas	Yes	Yes
Utah	Yes	Yes
Vermont	Yes	Yes
Virginia	Yes	Yes
Washington	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	No	No
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	No	No

Child Care Center Online Inspection and Complaint Reports by Number of States

Report	Number of States
Inspection reports online	32*
Complaint reports online	28
Both inspection reports and complaint reports online	26
Neither inspection nor complaint reports online	18
*Includes DoD	

Oversight Benchmark 3: Oversight Caseloads

Programs to licensing staff ratio does not exceed 50:1.

Ratio of Programs to Licensing Staff			
State	Program: Licensing Staff Ratio	State	Program: Licensing Staff Ratio
Alabama	65:1	Missouri	81:1
Alaska	33:1	Montana	95:1
Arizona	87:1	Nebraska	180:1
Arkansas	70:1	Nevada	65:1
California	169:1	New Hampshire	116:1
Colorado	140:1	New Jersey	105:1
Connecticut	217:1	New Mexico	65:1
Delaware	150:1	New York	85:1
Department of Defense	50:1	North Carolina	74:1
District of Columbia	90:1	North Dakota	88:1
Florida	87:1	Ohio	89:1
Georgia	120:1	Oklahoma	38:1
Hawaii	55:1	Oregon	117:1
Idaho [^]	^	Pennsylvania	103:1
Illinois	65:1	Rhode Island	220:1
Indiana	65:1	South Carolina	80:1
Iowa	123:1	South Dakota	33:1
Kansas	70:1	Tennessee	22:1
Kentucky	93:1	Texas	70:1
Louisiana	84:1	Utah	63:1
Maine	179:1	Vermont	228:1
Maryland	115:1	Virginia	70:1
Massachusetts	99:1	Washington	61:1
Michigan	159:1	West Virginia	60:1
Minnesota	194:1	Wisconsin	80:1
Mississippi	86:1	Wyoming	66:1

Number of States By Licensing Staff Caseload	
Program: Licensing Staff Ratio	Number of States
50:1 or fewer	5*
51 - 60:1	2
61-70:1	12
71-80:1	3
81-90:1	9
91-100:1	3
101 or more	17
No inspection caseload for staff	1
Total	52
*Includes DoD	

Oversight Benchmark 4: Licensing Staff Qualifications

Licensing staff have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education (ECE) or a related field.

Education Requirements for Child Care Center Licensing Staff	
State	Education Requirements for Licensing Staff
Alabama	Bachelor's in unrelated field
Alaska	Less than an associate degree
Arizona	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
Arkansas	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
California	Less than an associate degree
Colorado	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
Connecticut	Less than an associate degree
Delaware	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
Department of Defense	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
District of Columbia	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
Florida	Bachelor's in unrelated field
Georgia	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
Hawaii	Bachelor's in unrelated field
Idaho	Less than an associate degree
Illinois	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
Indiana	Less than an associate degree
Iowa	Bachelor's in unrelated field
Kansas	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
Kentucky	Bachelor's in unrelated field
Louisiana	Bachelor's in unrelated field
Maine	Less than an associate degree
Maryland	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
Massachusetts	Less than an associate degree
Michigan	Masters in ECE or related field
Minnesota	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
Mississippi	Bachelor's in unrelated field
Missouri	Bachelor's in unrelated field
Montana	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
Nebraska	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
Nevada	Bachelor's in unrelated field
New Hampshire	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
New Jersey	Less than an associate degree
New Mexico	Less than an associate degree
New York	Bachelor's in unrelated field
North Carolina	Bachelor's in ECE or related field

Education Requirements for Child Care Center Licensing Staff

State	Education Requirements for Licensing Staff
North Dakota	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
Ohio	Associate degree in ECE or related field
Oklahoma	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
Oregon	Less than an associate degree
Pennsylvania	Less than an associate degree
Rhode Island	Bachelor's in social work or related field
South Carolina	Bachelor's in unrelated field
South Dakota	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
Tennessee	Bachelor's in unrelated field
Texas	Bachelor's in unrelated field
Utah	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
Vermont	Less than an associate degree
Virginia	Bachelor's in unrelated field
Washington	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
West Virginia	Bachelor's in ECE or related field
Wisconsin	Less than an associate degree
Wyoming	Bachelor's in unrelated field
Note: ECE = early childhood education; CDA = Child Development Associate credential	

Number of States Requiring Specific Licensing Staff Qualifications

Licensing Staff Education Requirement	Number of States
Less than an associate degree	13
Associate degree in ECE or related field	1
Bachelor's in unrelated field	15
Bachelor's in ECE or related field	22*
Masters in ECE or related field	1
Total	52*
*Includes DoD	



Appendix C

Methodology

In December 2012, Child Care Aware® of America sent a request to child care licensing directors in all 51 states (including the *District of Columbia*) and a representative from the Office of Family Policy/Office of Children and Youth in the U.S. *Department of Defense (DoD)*. We asked them to verify the accuracy of information we had gathered about specific licensing regulations in their state related to child care centers.

The data were based on Child Care Aware® of America's *We Can Do Better* 2007, 2009 and 2011 reports and our examination of licensing regulations, especially those that had changed since the 2011 report. Licensing directors were asked to provide information about changes, including specific citations notating the change. This information was verified using the state child care regulations gathered by the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education or other written documents. Information for *DoD* was taken from the *Department of Defense Instruction 6060.2* and other relevant Department of Defense documents.⁵⁸ We received responses from all 51 states and *DoD*. Regulatory changes that are in the consideration phase or had not yet taken effect by February 2013 (when this report was finalized) were not credited. There were instances in which individual states clarified their existing requirements, resulting in adjustments to coding of some items even though there were no actual changes to regulations since 2011.

States were given credit only if the regulation could be verified in a written document such as the state's regulations or policy manual. States did not receive credit if written documentation could not be found or if the language in the regulation was permissive (e.g., the program may or may not follow a regulation). In cases where states permit several different options for complying (e.g., complying with child care center director education qualifications), the minimum allowed was used.

Benchmark criteria were developed by Child Care Aware® of America and have been used for the 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2013 *We Can Do Better* reports, with changes for 2013 as described below. The rationale for each standard, including research evidence of its importance in quality care, is noted in each section of the report and in previous reports.

Scoring

For 2013, the scoring methodology for child care centers was adjusted to be more consistent with the scoring approach for the *Leaving Children to Chance* report, Child Care Aware® of America's biennial ranking of small family child care homes. This adjustment was made to review similar categories of requirements related to initial and annual training, learning activities and for health and safety. These changes affected final scores even for some states that did not have any substantive change in regulations.

Although this change prevents direct comparison with Child Care Aware® of America's previous years' child care center reports, it is more conceptually in line with our scoring of small family child care home regulations. The following adjustments were made to child care center scoring:

1. Additional topics scored for initial training.
2. Additional items scored for developmental domains.
3. The health and safety benchmark split into two benchmarks and additional items were scored.
4. Additional item scored for parent involvement.

States could receive a maximum of 10 points for each of the areas scored or partial credit based on state requirements. States that permit parents to authorize the use of corporal punishment receive a zero for the safety benchmark. The total maximum points a state could receive is 150.

The information was used to generate state sheets with a total score, scores for each standard and a list of strengths, weaknesses and recommendations for each state. Generally, scores less than 50 percent (half moon) were noted as a weakness, while scores above 75 percent (three-quarter moon) were noted as a strength.

Endnotes

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