



Division of Licensing Services
Office of Child Care Licensing

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<http://www.azdhs.gov/als/childcare/>

JANICE K. BREWER, GOVERNOR
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Thank you for your inquiry regarding child care group home certification requirements. The Office of Child Care Licensing is a part of the Arizona Department of Health Services Licensing Division that certifies child care group homes and licenses child care facilities.

If you choose to provide child care for five or more children in your home, you are required to have your home certified. You will also be required to meet city, county, manufactured housing, or homeowner's association codes, covenants and restrictions. It is your responsibility to find out what those might be before beginning the certification process.

For your information → did you know you can care for four children, for compensation, ←
 with all of your own children and not need to be certified?

The following questions will clarify some of the requirements that are necessary in order for you, the provider, to become certified:

- | | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Are you interested in caring for children <u>in your own home</u> ? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Do you, as the provider, have a high school diploma or its equivalent and 3 credit hours or 60 workshop hours in early education, child development or a closely related field and are you at least 21 years of age or older? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Do you have an assistant provider who is at least 18 years of age and has a high school diploma or equivalent and 2 credit hours or 30 clock hours in early education, child development or a closely related field? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Will you ensure that all personnel and household members who are 18 years of age and older submit fingerprints for a criminal history check? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. If you have operated a child care home or facility in Arizona, or any other state, is your licensure history free from any denials, revocations, suspensions or any other legal actions? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Are you willing to comply with local laws, including zoning, building and fire? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Will you and/or your personnel allow representatives of the Office of Child Care Licensure to enter and inspect your home at any time during your hours of operation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Will you maintain accurate records such as staff files, children's files, medication permission forms, attendance records, etc., in accordance with state laws? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Are you willing to secure and maintain general commercial liability insurance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- | | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 10. Will child care be the only business on your home's premises, during the hours of operation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Will you maintain the staffing requirements of 1 caregiver to 1 to 5 children or 2 caregivers to 6 to 10 children, excluding your own children, at all times and not have more than 15 total children including your own children at any time? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Are you willing and able to provide the materials and supplies required for all ages of children in your care? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. Are you willing to plan a program that includes a balance of activities and nutritious snacks and meals for children? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14. Are you able to meet the square footage requirements for indoor space? (30 square feet per child, not including single use areas such as kitchen, bathroom, laundry room, workshop, hallway, garage, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. Are you able to meet the square footage requirements for outdoor space? (minimum 375 square feet total) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16. Does your home have a direct exit to the outside on each floor/level? (Infants and children under the age of 5 years cannot be cared for above or below the ground level of the home unless there is a direct exit to the outside on that level) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17. Can you provide an outdoor play area that is partially shaded and enclosed by a fence that is at least 4 feet high with a gate that has a latch? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18. If you have a swimming pool, is it separately fenced with at least a 5 foot high fence that has a self-closing, self-latching gate with a lock? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19. Are you willing to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the children in your care? (Some things to consider are animals, household chemicals, poisonous or hazardous plants and trees, bodies of water such as spas, ponds, fountains, etc., trampolines, and firearms.) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If you answered "NO" to any of the questions listed above, please call your local office and ask to speak with the 'Surveyor on Duty' in order to discuss the questions to which you answered "NO."

If you have answered "YES" to all of the questions listed above, you meet some of the initial requirements for certification. You will need to submit your application and supporting documents, attend a Child Care Group Home Orientation Session, and have your home and outdoor play area inspected prior to becoming certified. When your application is complete and has been approved by the Department, you will be notified of the available training dates and times for the Orientation Session. Orientation Sessions are held in the Phoenix, Tucson and Flagstaff Offices.

If you would like a Child Care Group Home Application Packet, you may print one from the Internet at: <http://www.azdhs.gov/als/childcare/>