

Center Rules- New 2025

Definitions

Draft 7/30/25, pending final approval.

Topic	Pre-2025	2025
Definitions	R9-5-101.4 “Accredited” means approved by the: - New England Commission of Institution of Higher Education; - Middle States Commission of Higher Education; - North Central the Higher Learning Commission; - Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities; - Commission on Colleges, or - Western Association of Schools and Colleges. R9-5-101.10. “Age-appropriate” means consistent with a child’s age, and age-related stage of physical growth, and mental development. R9-5-101.13. “Application” means the documents that an applicant is required to submit to the Department for licensure or approval of a request for a change affecting a license. R9-5-101.14 “Assistant teacher-caregiver” means a staff member who aids a teacher-caregiver in planning, developing, or conducting child care activities.	R9-5-101.4 “Accredited” means approved by the US Department of Education and recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. R9-5-101.10 “Age-appropriate” means suitable with the developmental and social maturity of the child’s age, based on physical growth, language, and emotional, social, behavioral, and cognitive development. R9-5-101.13 “Application” means the documents that an applicant is required to electronically submit to the Department for licensure or approval of a request for a change affecting a license. R9-5-101.14 “Assistant child educator” means a staff member who aids a child educator in planning, developing, or conducting child care activities.

Center Rules- New 2025

Definitions

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Topic	Pre-2025	2025
	R9-5-101. 16. “Background check” means results identified in searches according to A.R.S.§ 46-811(A) and consistent with the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-186): - The state sex offender registry within this state and each state where a staff member resided during the preceding five years; - The state-based child abuse and neglect registries and databases within this state and each state where a staff member resided during the preceding five years; - The National Crime Information Center; and - The National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 A.S.C.16901 et seq). REMOVED R9-5-101.23. “Change in ownership” means a transfer of controlling legal or controlling equitable interest and authority in a facility resulting from a sale or merger of a facility.	R9-5-101.16 “Background check” means results identified in searches according to A.R.S. § 46-811(A) and consistent with the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-186): - The state sex offender registry within this state and each state where a staff member resided during the preceding five years; - The state-based child abuse and neglect registries and databased within this state and each state where a staff member resided during the preceding five years; - The state criminal history checks within this state and each state where a staff member resided during the preceding five years; - The National FBI criminal history check, with FBI fingerprint check; and - The National Crime Information Center, including the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 A.S.C. 16901 et seq).

Center Rules- New 2025

Definitions

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Topic	Pre-2025	2025
	R9-5-101.117. “Teacher-caregiver” means a staff member responsible for developing, planning, and conducting child care activities. R9-5-101.118. “Teacher-caregiver-aide” means a staff member who provides child care services under the supervision of a teacher-caregiver. R9-5-101.27. “Child with special needs” means: - A child with a health care provider’s diagnosis and record of a physical or mental condition that substantially limits the child in providing self-care or performing manual tasks or any other major life function such as walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, or learning; - A child with a “developmental disability” as defined in A.R.S. § 36-551; or - A “child with a disability” as defined in A.R.S. § 15-761.	R9-5-101.26 “Child educator” means a staff member responsible for developing, planning, and conducting child care activities. R9-5-101.27 “Child educator aide” means a staff member who provides child care services under the supervision of a child educator. NEW R9-5-101.28 “Child with a disability” means the same as - A child with a “developmental disability” as defined in A.R.S. § 36-551; or - A “child with a disability” as defined in A.R.S. § 15-761 R9-5-101.29 “Child with a special health care needs” means a child with a health care provider’s diagnosis and record of a physical or mental condition that substantially limits the child in providing self-care or performing manual tasks or any other major life functions such as walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, or learning.

Center Rules- New 2025

Definitions

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Topic	Pre-2025	2025
	REMOVED R9-5-101.32. “Corporal punishment” means any physical action used to discipline a child that inflicts pain to the body of the child, or that may result in physical injury to the child. R9-5-101.34. “Credit hour” means an academic unit earned at an accredited college or university: a. By attending a one-hour class session each calendar week during a semester or equivalent shorter course term, or b. Completing practical work for a course as determined by the accredited college or university. R9-5-101.36. “Developmentally-appropriate” means consistent with a child’s physical, emotional, social, cultural, and cognitive development, based on the child’s age and family background and the child’s personality, learning style, and pattern and timing of growth. REMOVED R9-5-101.37. “Discipline” means the on-going process of helping a child develop self-control	R9-5-101.35 “Credit hour” means an academic unit earned at an accredited college or university: a. By attending a class session, which is equivalent to 15 clock hours, each calendar week during a semester or equivalent shorter course term, or b. Completing practical work for a course as determined by the accredited college or university. R9-5-101.37 “Developmentally-appropriate” means consistent with a child’s physical, emotional, social, cultural, linguistic, and cognitive development, based on the child’s age and family background and the child’s personality, learning style, and pattern and timing of growth.

Center Rules- New 2025

Definitions

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Topic	Pre-2025	2025
	and assume responsibility for the child's own actions. R9-5-101.39. "Electronic signature" has the same meaning as in A.R.S. § 41-351(9). R9-5-101.48. "Field trip" means an activity planned by a staff member for an enrolled child: - At a location or area that is not licensed for child care services by the Department, or - At a child care facility in which the child is not enrolled. R9-5-101.49. "Final construction drawings" means facility plans that include the architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical, fire protection, plumbing, and technical specifications of the physical plant and the facility premises and that have been approved by local government for the construction, alteration, or addition of a facility. R9-5-101-54. "Guidance" means the ongoing direction, counseling, teaching, or modeling of generally accepted social behavior through which a child learns to develop and maintain the self-control, self-reliance, and self-esteem necessary to assume responsibilities, make daily living decisions, and live according to generally accepted social behavior.	R9-5-101.39 "Electronic signature" has the same meaning as in A.R.S. § 41-251. R9-5-101.48 "Field trip" means an activity planned by a staff member for an enrolled child at a: - Location or area that is not licensed for child care services by the Department, or - Child care facility in which the child is not enrolled. R9-5-101.49 "Final construction drawings" means facility plans that include the architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical, fire protection, plumbing, and technical specifications of the physical plant and the facility premises and that have been approved by the local government for the construction, alteration, or addition of a facility. R9-5-101.54 "Guidance" means the ongoing direction, counseling, teaching, or modeling of generally accepted social behavior through which a child learns to develop and maintain the self-regulation, self-reliance, and self-esteem necessary to assume responsibilities, make daily living decisions, and live according to generally accepted social behavior.

Center Rules- New 2025

Definitions

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Topic	Pre-2025	2025
	R9-5-101.57. “High school equivalency diploma” means: a. A document issued by the State Board of Education under A.R.S. §15-702 to an individual who passes a general educational development test or meets the requirements of A.R.S. §15-702(B); b. A document issued by another state to an individual who passes a general educational development test or meets the requirements of a state statute equivalent to A.R.S. § 15-702(B); or c. A document issued by another country to an individual who has completed that country’s equivalent of a 12th grade education, as determined by the Department based upon information obtained from American or foreign consulates or embassies or other governmental agencies.	R9-5-101.57 “High school equivalency diploma” means a document issued by: a. The State Board of Education under A.R.S. § 15-702 to an individual who passes a general educational development test or meets the requirements of A.R.S. 15-702(B); b. Another state to an individual who passes a general educational development test or meets the requirements of a state statute equivalent to A.R.S. § 15-702 (B); or c. Another country to an individual who has completed that country’s equivalent of a 12th grade education, as determined by the Department based upon information obtained from American or foreign consulates or embassies or other governmental agencies NEW R9-5-101.62 “Individual plan” means a written description of the daily activities required for an enrolled child with a special health care need or disability. R9-5-101.63 “Infant” means a child:

Center Rules- New 2025

Definitions

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Topic	Pre-2025	2025
	R9-5-101.62. “Infant” means: a. A child 12 months of age or younger, or b. A child 18 months of age or younger who is not yet walking. REMOVED R9-5-101-68. “Licensed applicator” who complies with A.A.C. R3-8-201(C). R9-5-101.73. “Medication” means a substance prescribed by a physician, physician assistant, or registered nurse practitioner or available without a prescription for the treatment or prevention of illness or infestation. REMOVED R9-5-101.85. “Perishable food” means food that becomes unfit for human consumption if not stored to prevent spoilage.	a. 12 months of age or younger, or b. 18 months of age or younger who is not yet walking. R9-5-101.73 “Medication” means a substance prescribed by a health care provider or available without a prescription for the treatment or prevention of illness or infestation. NEW R9-5-101.75 “Modification” means the substantial improvement, enlargement, reduction, alteration, or other substantial change in the facility or another structure on the premises at a child care facility. NEW R9-5-101.83 “Out-of-school time” means a program, as described in Article 7 of this Chapter, that is licensed with the Department and operates when school is not in session, such as before school, after school, or during school breaks, and serves school-aged children enrolled in school. NEW

Center Rules- New 2025

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	R9-5-101.86. "Pesticide"" has the same meaning as in A.R.S. § 32-3601. REMOVED R9-5-101.87. "Pesticide label" means the written, printed, or graphic matter approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency on, or attached to, a pesticide container. R9-5-101.91. "Physician assistant" means: a. An individual who is licensed under A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 25; or b. An individual who is licensed as a physician assistant under the law of another state.	R9-5-101.87 "Pediatric abusive head trauma" means an injury to the skull or intracranial contents of an infant or a child due to inflicted blunt impact and/or violent shaking. R9-5-101.88 "Pesticide" has the same meaning as in A.R.S. § 3-3601 NEW R9-5-101.91 "Physical restraint" means a restriction that immobilizes or prevents freedom of movement of all or part of a person's body, or restricting normal access to the person's body. R9-5-101.93 "Physician assistant" means an individual who is licensed: a. Under A.R.S. Title 32, Chapter 25; or b. As a physician assistant under the law of another state. NEW R9-5-101.94 "Positive Discipline" means the on-going process of teaching a child self-regulation and assuming responsibility for the child's own actions, as well as providing guidance that focuses on preventing behavior problems by supporting children in learning appropriate social skills and emotional responses

Center Rules- New 2025

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	R9-5-101.96. “Public school” has the same meaning as “school” in A.R.S. § 15-101. REMOVED R9-5-101.97. “Registered nurse practitioner” means: a. An individual who is licensed and certified as a “registered nurse practitioner” under A.R.S. § 32-1601, or b. An individual who is licensed or certified as a registered nurse practitioner under the law of another state. R9-5-101.105. “Screen time” means the use of electronic media to watch television or to watch a video, a DVD, or a movie at the facility or at another location or the use of electronic media or a computer for game-playing, entertainment, communication, or educational purposes. REMOVED R9-5-101.110. “Sippy cup” means a lidded drinking container that is designed to be leak proof or leak-resistant and from which a child drinks through a spout or straw.	R9-5-101.99 “Public school” has the same meaning in A.R.S. § 15-101. NEW R9-5-101.100 “Punishment” means a negative physical or emotional action taken by adults in the classroom for a child’s behavior that is not deemed acceptable. R9-5-101.108. “Screen time” means the use of electronic media to watch television or to watch a video at the facility or at another location or the use of electronic media or a computer for game-playing, entertainment, communication, or educational purposes.

Center Rules- New 2025

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	R9-9-101.113. “Student-aide” means an individual less than 16 years of age who is participating in an educational, curriculum-based course of study; vocational education; or occupational development program and who, without being compensated by a licensee, is present at a facility to receive instruction from and supervision by staff in the provision of child care services. R9-5-101.120. “Tummy time” means a limited period-of-time no more than 20 minutes used to allow a non-crawling infant: i. To strengthen the infant’s head, neck, and upper body muscles; and ii. To increase the infant’s sensory perception, visual and hearing acuity, and social and emotional interaction.	R9-5-101.117 “Student-aide” means an individual between 15 and 18 years of age who is participating in an educational, curriculum-based course of study; vocational education; or occupational development program and who, without being compensated by a licensee, is present at a facility to receive instruction from and supervision by staff in the provision of child care services. R9-5-101.122 “Tummy time” means a limited period-of-time no more than 20 minutes used to allow a non-crawling infant to: a. Strengthen the infant’s head, neck, and upper body muscles; and b. Increase the infant’s sensory perception, visual and hearing acuity, and social and emotional interaction. NEW R9-5-101.110 “Separation” means removing an enrolled child from a group setting when the enrolled child needs support to gain control of them self under the supervision of a familiar and supportive adult until the enrolled child has regained regulation. NEW R9-5-101.111 “Serious physical injury” has the same meaning as in A.R.S. § 8-201.

Center Rules- New 2025

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		NEW R9-5-101.125 “Written notice” means a message in written, typed, or printed characters sent or otherwise proved to have been received.